



THE TRANSFORMERS™

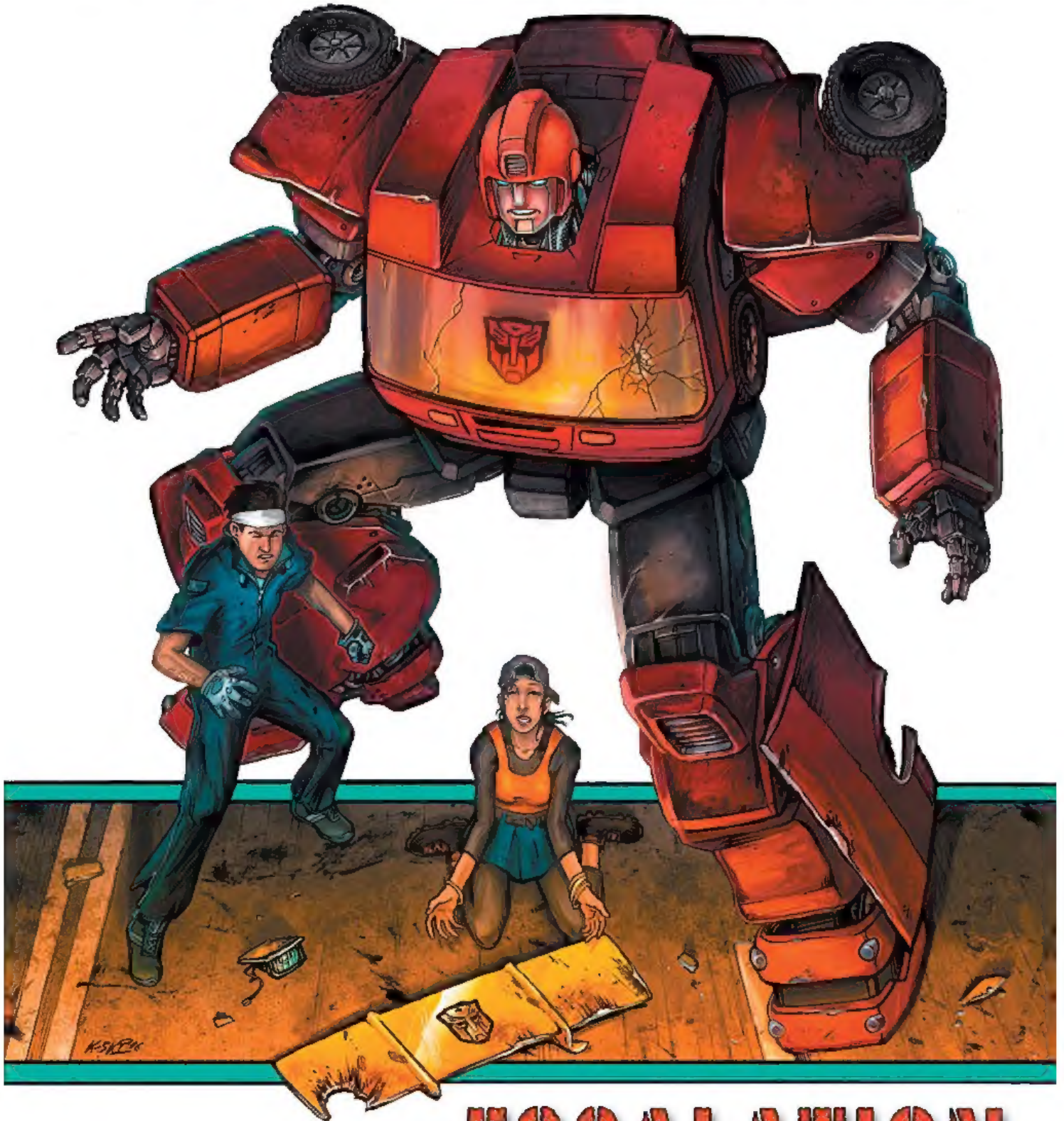
FORMERS™

ESCALATION





THE TRANSFORMERS™

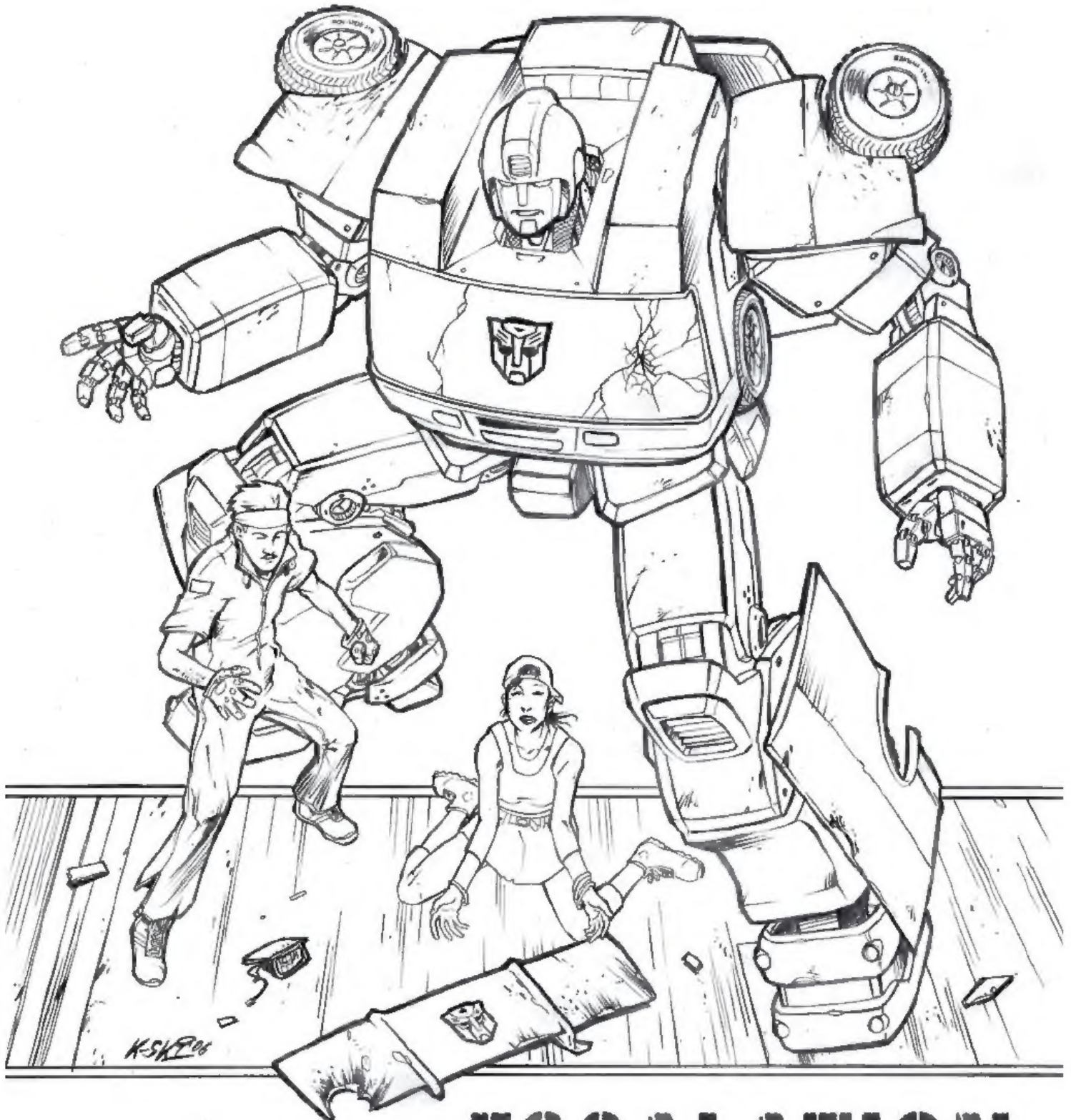


ESCALATION



ISSUE #1
RI • B

THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION

THE TRANSFORMERS ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY : **SIMON FURMAN**

ART BY : **E.J. SU**

COLORS BY : **JOHN RAUCH**

COLOR ASSIST BY : **ZAC ATKINSON AND AARON MYERS**

LETTERS BY : **CHRIS MOWRY**

EDITS BY : **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY : **E.J. SU**

VARIANT COVER BY : **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**



ISSUE NUMBER ONE

Present day Earth: the DECEPTICON infiltration gambit has begun, the opening moves made in a multi-layered strategy that may well spell the total and utter destruction of the planet. Having dispatched his traitorous unit commander, STARScream, MEGATRON has taken control of affairs on Earth, the discovery of Ore-13 (a potent variant on the long-exhausted CYBERTRONIAN power source known as ENERGON) meriting his personal attention. Now, the local AUTOBOT tactical response unit (from their hidden base beneath the surface of Lake Michigan) and their newly arrived commander-in-chief, OPTIMUS PRIME, prepare for the worst.

PHASE TWO BEGINS...



Licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Amie Lozanski and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

IDW Publishing is:
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robbie Robbins, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Privman, Business Development

THE TRANSFORMERS: ESCALATION #1, NOVEMBER 2006. FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2006 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

"THIS IS HOW IT
GOES DOWN..."

"ON THE OPEN ROAD,
MAYBE JUST WITHIN SOME
CITY LIMITS SOMEWHERE,
THE TARGET IS *ISOLATED*..."

"...IMMOBILIZED."

"THEN..."

WHOOOOOM!

"ONE LESS
ALIEN MECH."



"OF COURSE..."



...OUT THERE,
IN THE FIELD,
IT MIGHT ALL
BE VERY
DIFFERENT.



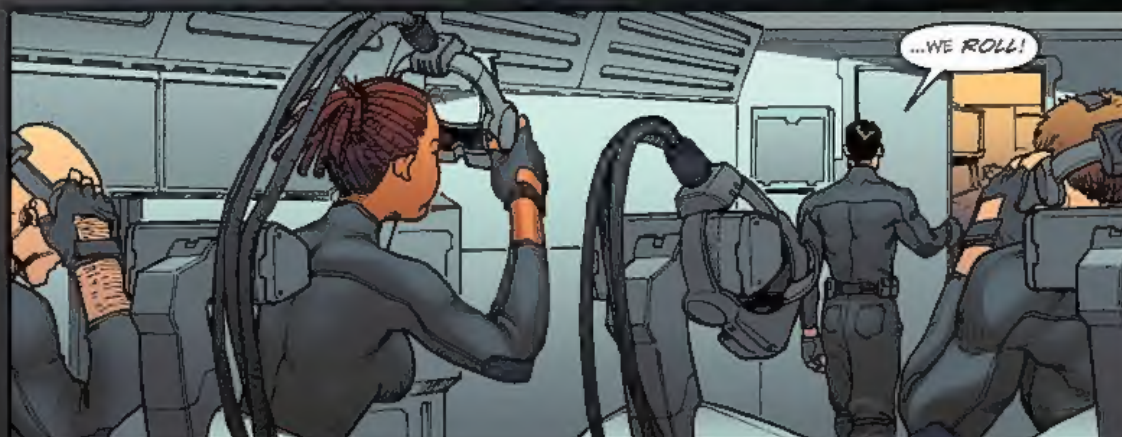
WHICH IS WHY
WE HAVE TO BE
PREPARED FOR ANY
EVENTUALITY, ANY
GIVEN SET OF
CIRCUMSTANCES.



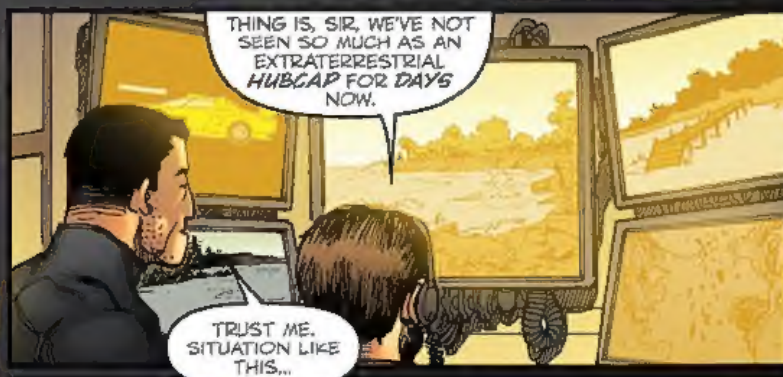
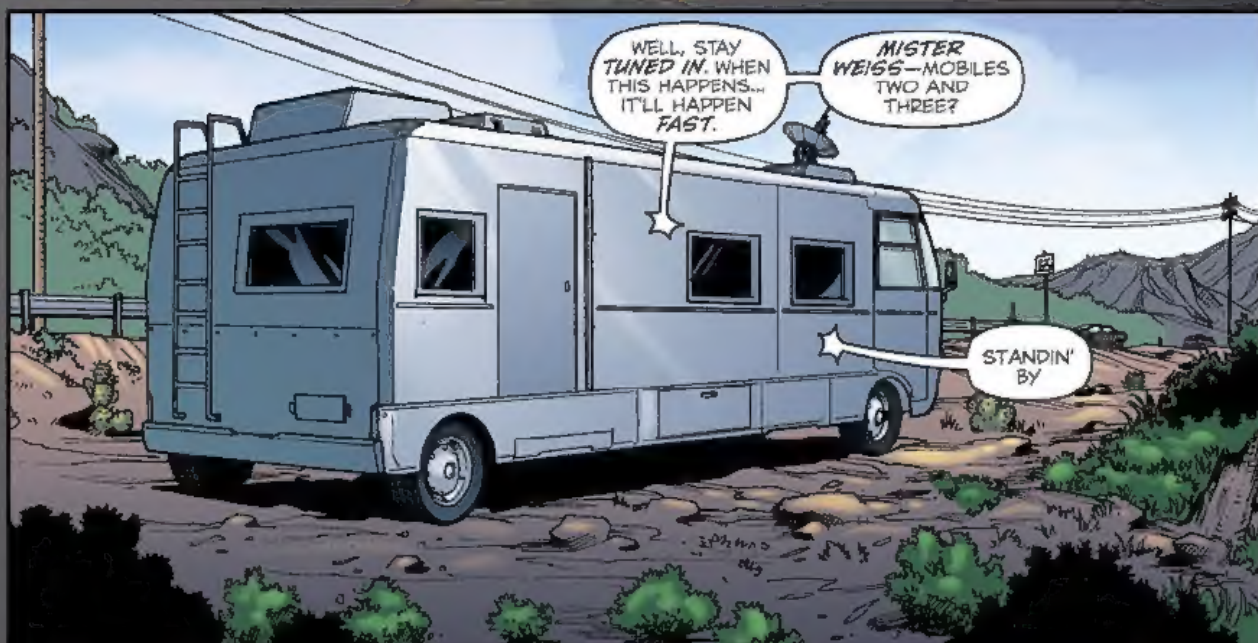
MACHINATION FIELD UNIT:
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN.

THAT'S IT FOR
NOW. ORDINANCE
CHECK IS AT 0900,
NEXT *SIMULATION*
AT 0945.

AND REMEMBER,
FROM THIS POINT
ON, SOON AS WE
GET AN ACTIONABLE
PROFILE...



...WE ROLL!



ARK-19:

YOU'RE GOING
BACK. TO
YOUR HOMES,
YOUR LIVES.

BUT...

WE'RE WHAT?

...I THOUGHT WE
WERE A PART OF
THIS NOW, KIND OF, I
DUNNO, HONORARY
AUTOBOTS.

I-WE-DON'T
WANT TO GO BACK.
RATCHET, AFTER
ALL WE'VE SEEN...
AND DONE... HOW
CAN WE?

HECK,
SOME OF US
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO
GO BACK TO.
MY GARAGE,
WELL...

...I DON'T THINK
THE INSURANCE
WILL COVER IT.

IF IT WAS
UP TO ME...

OH, I GET IT.
THIS IS PROWL'S
DOING, ISN'T IT?
HE'S THE ONE
SHOWING US THE
DOOR.

FIGURES.

DOESN'T MATTER
WE CAME THROUGH FOR
YOU GUYS, ALMOST GOT
OURSELVES KILLED IN THE
PROCESS... WE'RE NOW
JUST SURPLUS TO
REQUIREMENTS.
RIGHT?

I...



...GUESS YOU *COULD* LOOK AT IT THAT WAY.

THING IS, *HUNTER*, THE DANGER—PRECIPITATED BY THE PALM COMPUTER—*DOES* SEEM TO HAVE PASSED. WHATEVER SECRETS IT HELD ARE LONG SINCE DIVULGED...

...AND THE DECEPTICONS *DON'T* DEAL IN PETTY RETRIBUTION. I...

...I'M SORRY. MY HANDS ARE TIED.



RIGHT. WHATEVER.

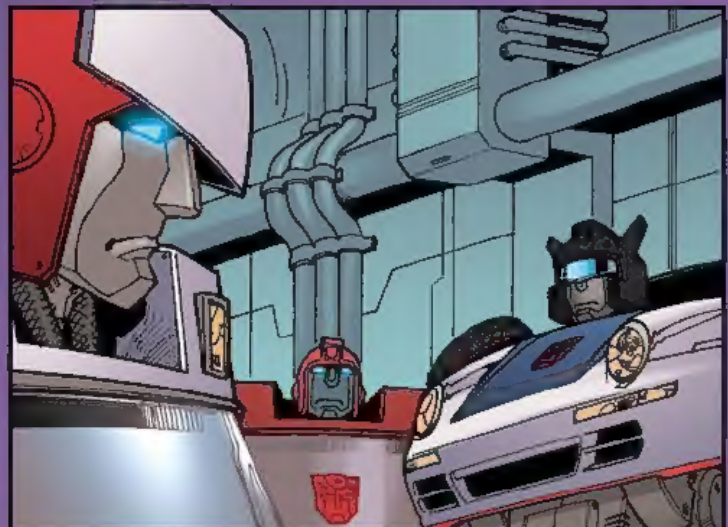
VERITY? YOU OKAY? IT'S UNLIKE YOU TO *NOT* HAVE AN OPINION.

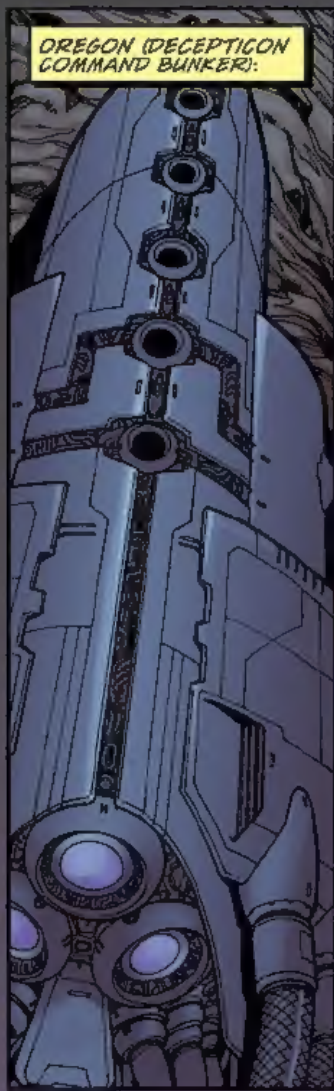


FH. I'VE NOT BEEN WANTED ANYWHERE, BY ANYONE, SINCE I STARTED CRAWLING.



WHY SHOULD IT BE ANY *DIFFERENT* THIS TIME AROUND?





OREGON (DECEPTICON
COMMAND BUNKER):

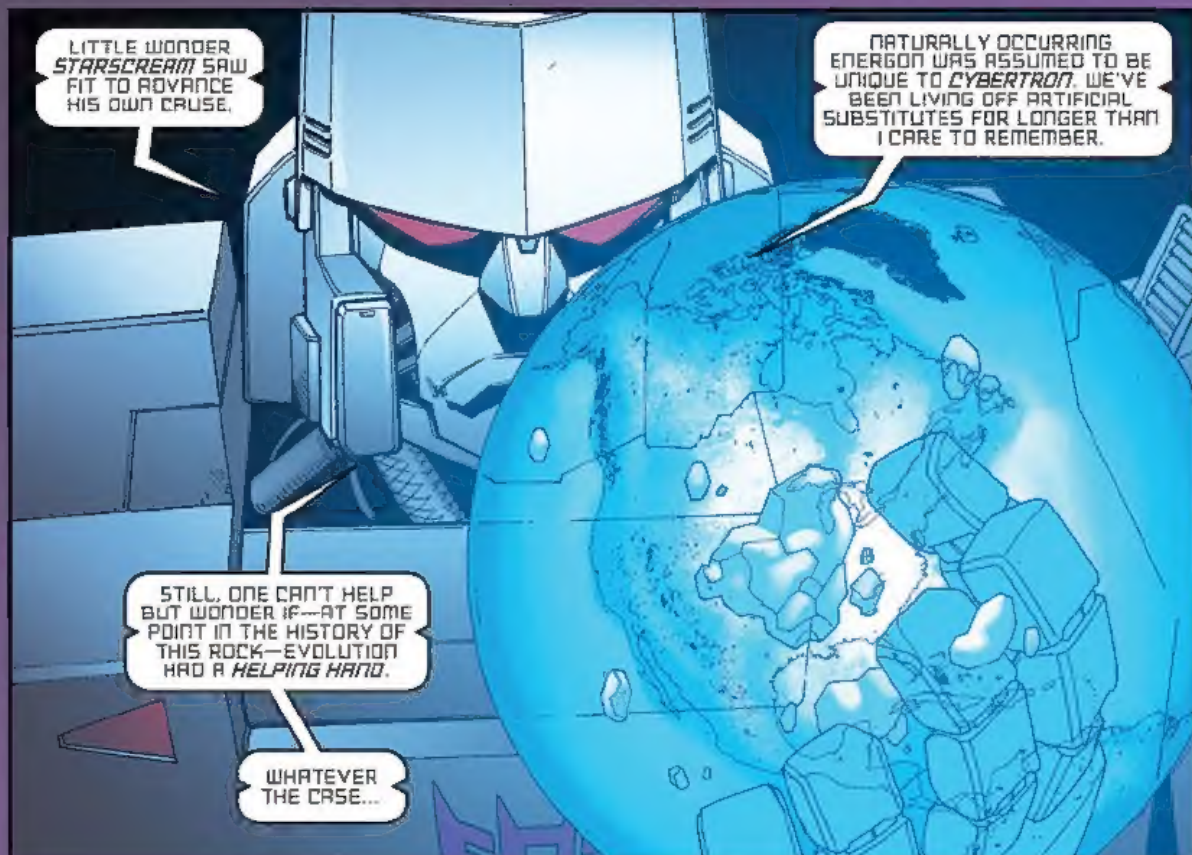


SO, ORE-13...

...TELL
ME MORE.

IT'S SOME KIND OF
CLOSE RELATIVE TO
ENERGON, ONLY FIVE OR
SIX TIMES AS POTENT.

THUS FAR, WE'VE
LOCATED ELEVEN
DISTINCT
SEAMS, BUT THERE
COULD BE MORE.



LITTLE WONDER
STARSCREAM SAW
FIT TO ADVANCE
HIS OWN CAUSE.

NATURALLY OCCURRING
ENERGON WAS ASSUMED TO BE
UNIQUE TO CYBERTRON. WE'VE
BEEN LIVING OFF ARTIFICIAL
SUBSTITUTES FOR LONGER THAN
I CARE TO REMEMBER.

STILL, ONE CAN'T HELP
BUT WONDER IF—AT SOME
POINT IN THE HISTORY OF
THIS ROCK—EVOLUTION
HAD A HELPING HAND.

WHATEVER
THE CASE...



THE
PRESENCE
HERE COULD
BE *DECISIVE*

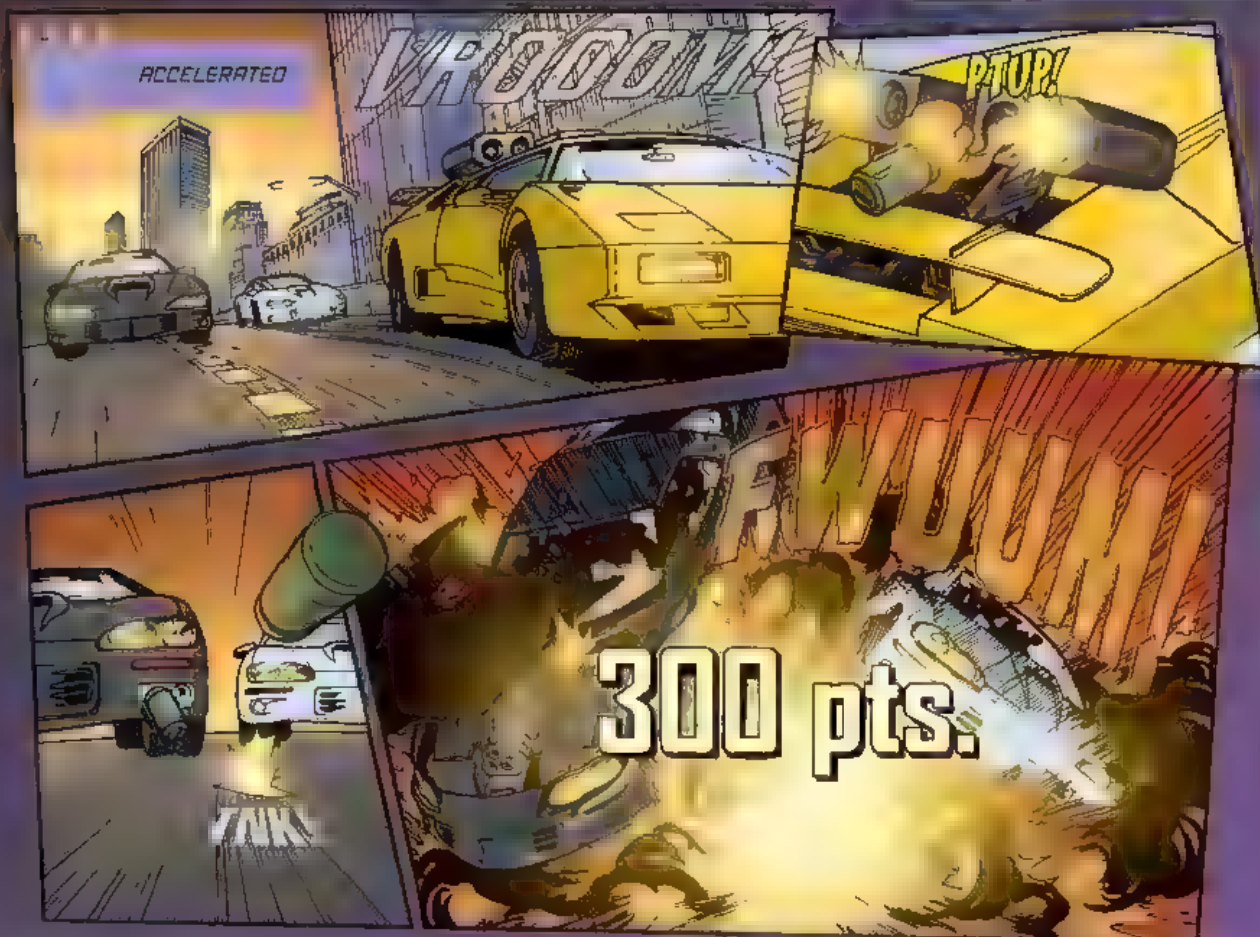
ASTROTRAIN: I WANT
A FULL TACTICAL
TOUR OF THE
INFILTRATION PHASE

AT ONCE, LORD
MEGATRON



WHERE STARScream
SAW VANGLORIOUS
SELF-ADVANCEMENT, I SEE
TOTAL LONG TERM *VICTORY*
THE STAGED PROCESS
HERE MUST BE ADVANCED

PERHAPS
EVEN



ACCELERATED

PTUP!

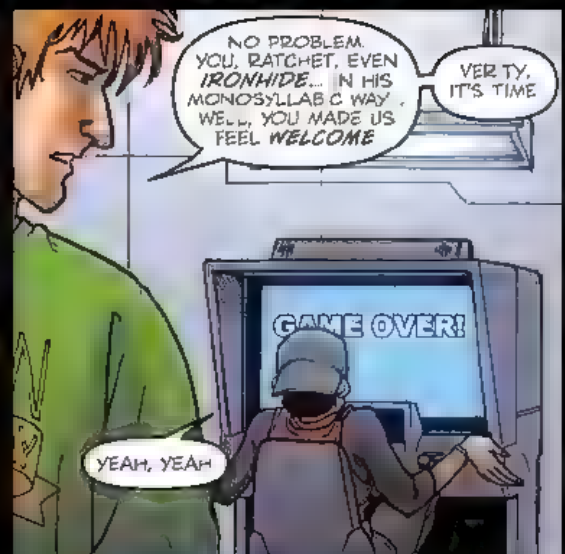
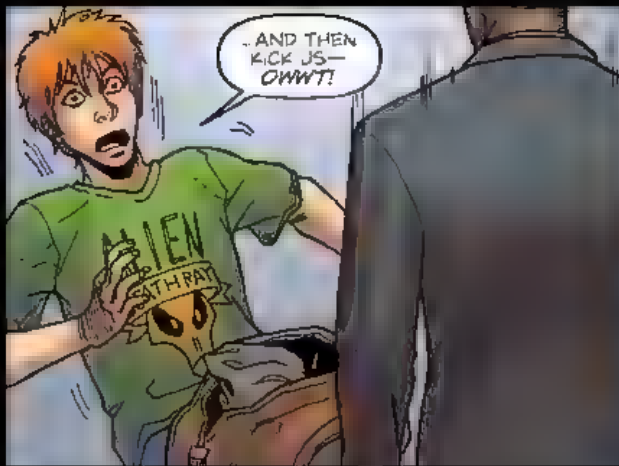
300 pts.

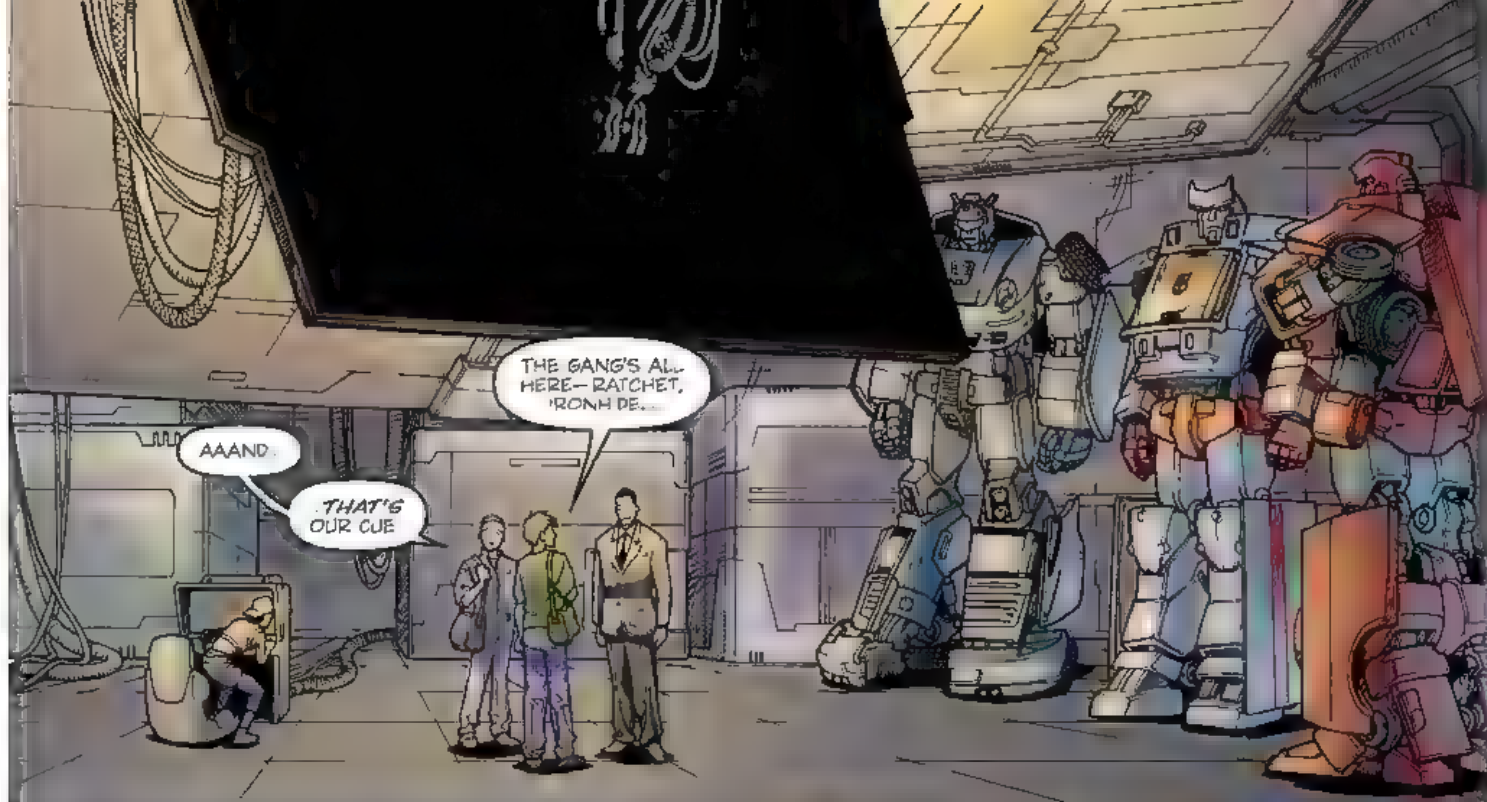


MAGINE THE
EGO REQUIRED...

TO DESIGN A
CONSOLE GAME AND
MAKE *YOURSELF*
THE STAR OF THE
SHOW!

STRANGE
TO GO TO ALL THE
TROUBLE OF MAKING US
AS *COMFORTABLE*
AS POSSIBLE

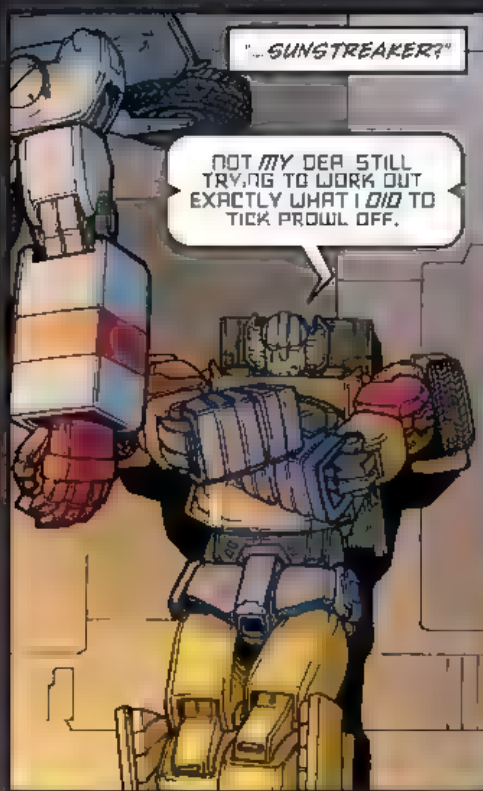




AAAND...

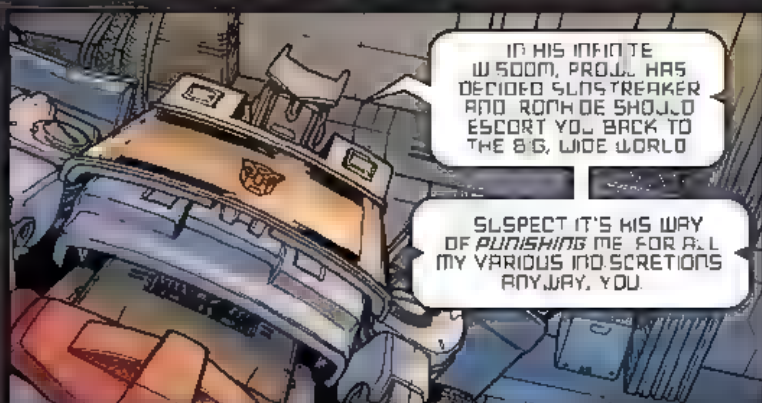
THAT'S
OUR CUE

THE GANG'S ALL
HERE—RATCHET,
IRONHIDE...



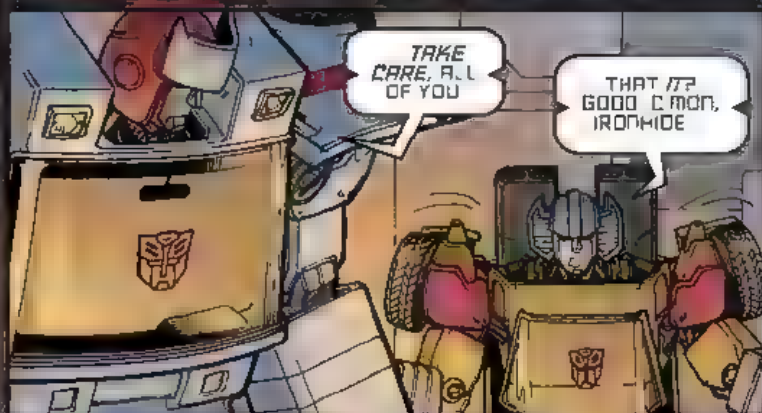
"...SUNSTREAKER?"

NOT MY DEAR STILL
TRYING TO WORK OUT
EXACTLY WHAT I DID TO
TICK PROWL OFF.



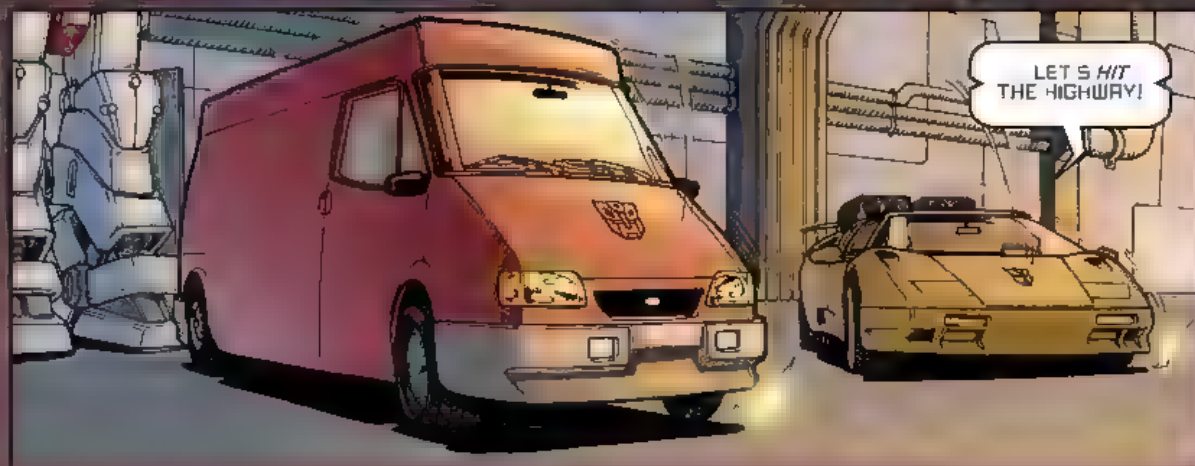
IN HIS INFINITE
WISDOM, PROWL HAS
DECIDED SUNSTREAKER
AND RATCHET SHOULD
ESCORT YOU BACK TO
THE 86, WIDE WORLD

SUSPECT IT'S HIS WAY
OF PUNISHING ME FOR ALL
MY VARIOUS MISDEEDS
ANYWAY, YOU

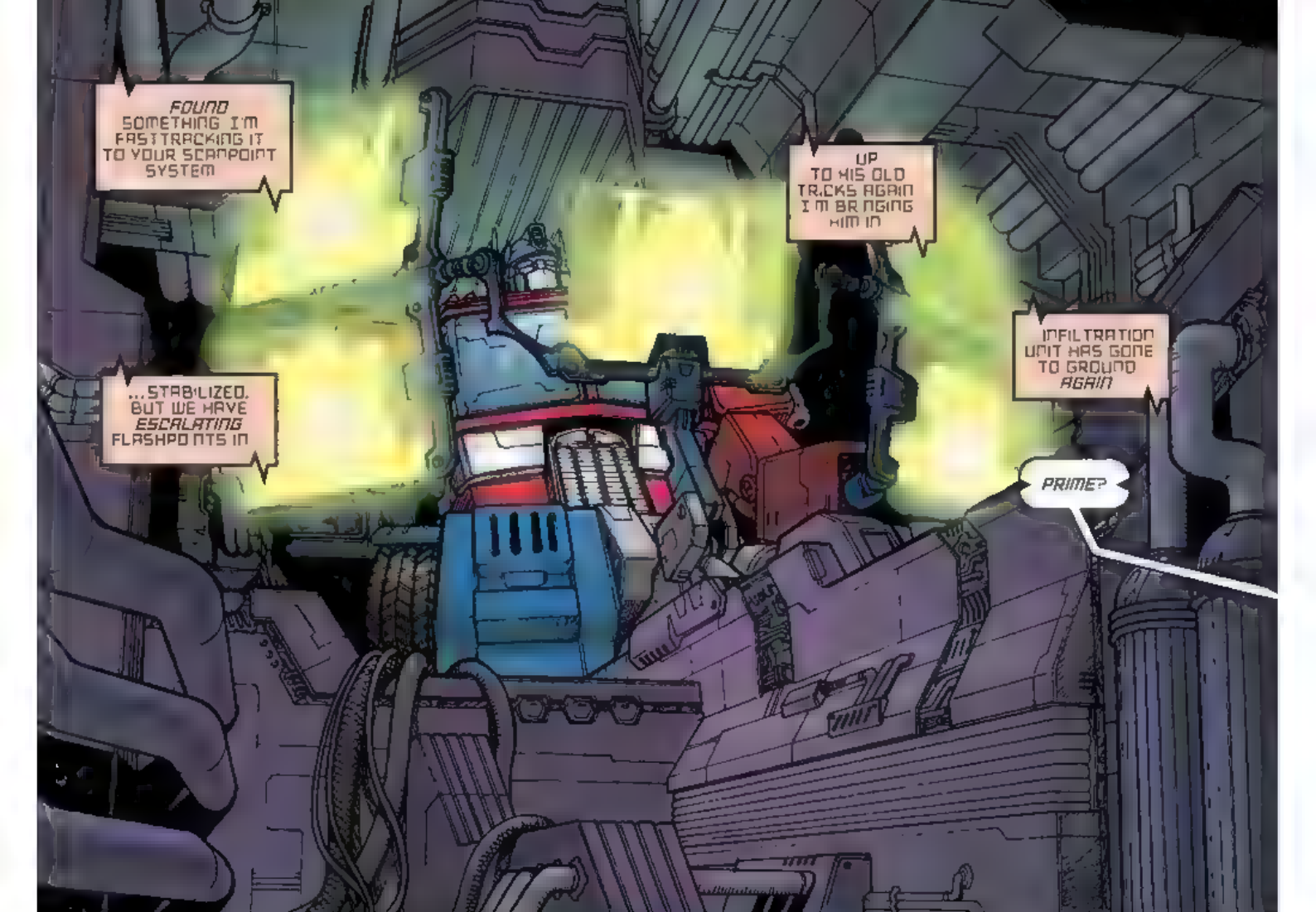


TAKE
CARE, ALL
OF YOU

THAT IT?
GOODBYE,
IRONHIDE



LET'S HIT
THE HIGHWAY!



FOUND
SOMETHING I'M
FASTTRACKING IT
TO YOUR SCANPOINT
SYSTEM

...STABILIZED.
BUT WE HAVE
ESCALATING
FLASHPOINTS IN

UP
TO HIS OLD
TRACKS AGAIN
I'M BRINGING
HIM IN


INFILTRATION
UNIT HAS GONE
TO GROUND
AGAIN

PRIME?



THE HUMANS
ARE GONE

THANK YOU, PROWL.
IT'S IMPORTANT WE
MAINTAIN A HEALTHY
DISTANCE FROM ANY
INDIGENT SPECIES,
ESPECIALLY WHEN,
ULTIMATELY



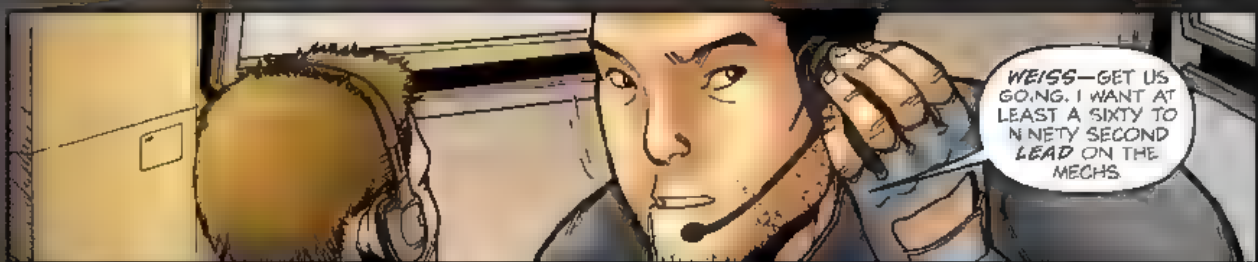
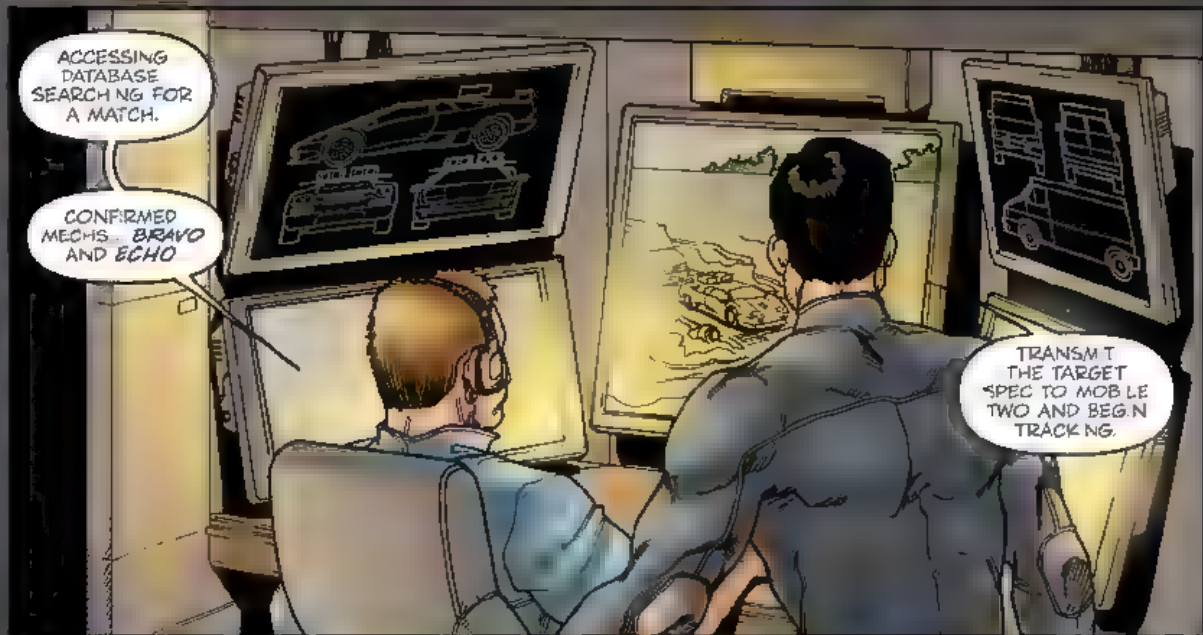
WE MAY *NOT*
BE ABLE TO
SAVE THEM *OR*
THEIR WORLD

PROWL—DISTURBING
NEWS HAS JUST REACHED
ME. IT WOULD SEEM FROM
PARTIALLY DECONSTRUCTED
FILES RECLAIMED FROM
BLUDGEON'S DATA-WELL
ON CYBERTRON

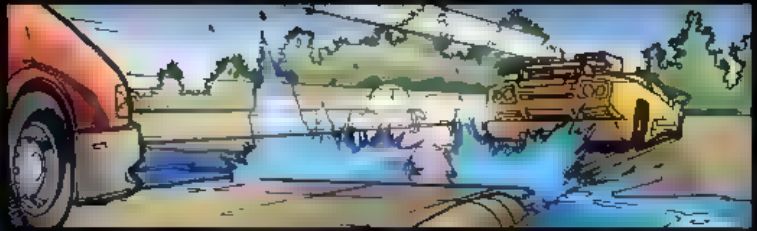
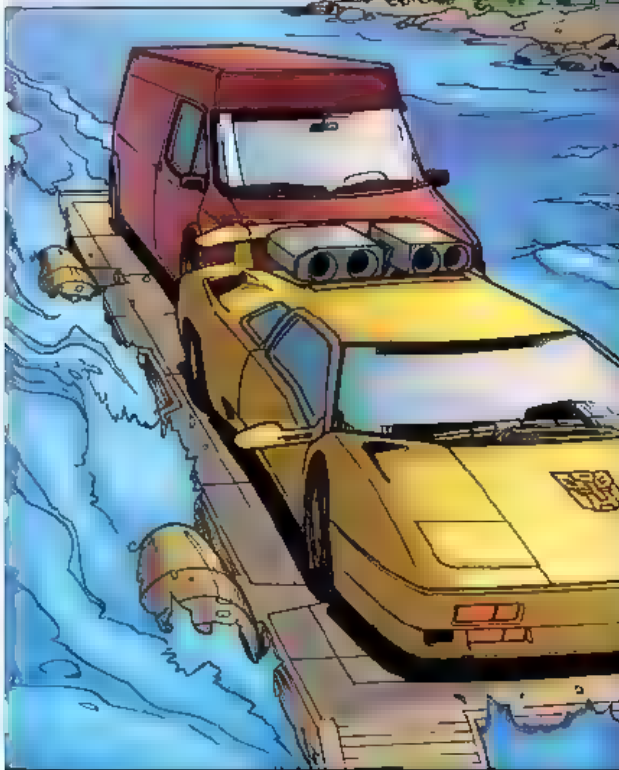
WE ARE *NOT*
THE FIRST
CYBERTRONIANS
TO SET FOOT
ON EARTH

JETFARE FOUND
HISTORICAL REFERENCE
TO BOTH *SHOCKWAVE*
AND *SOUNDWAVE*.
THE QUESTION IS

WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?

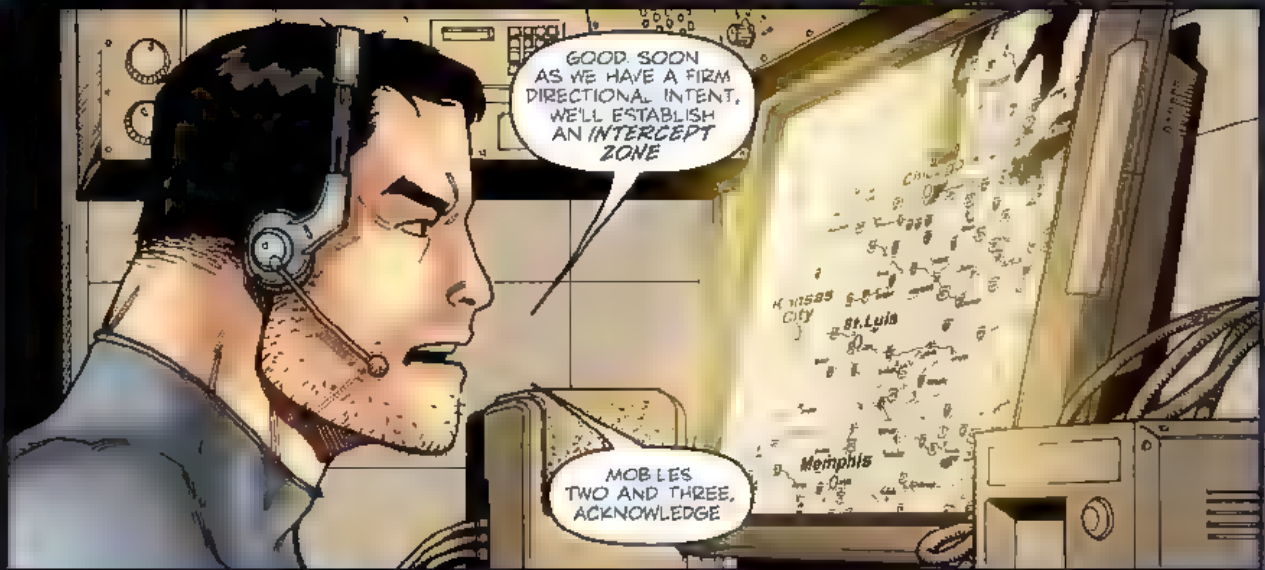
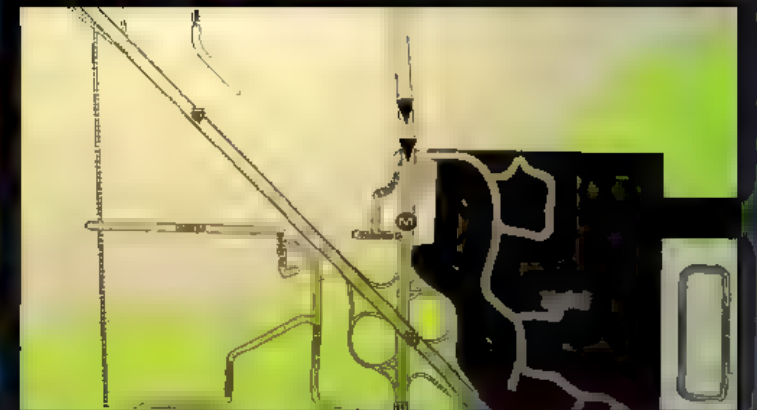


"... AND MOBILE."



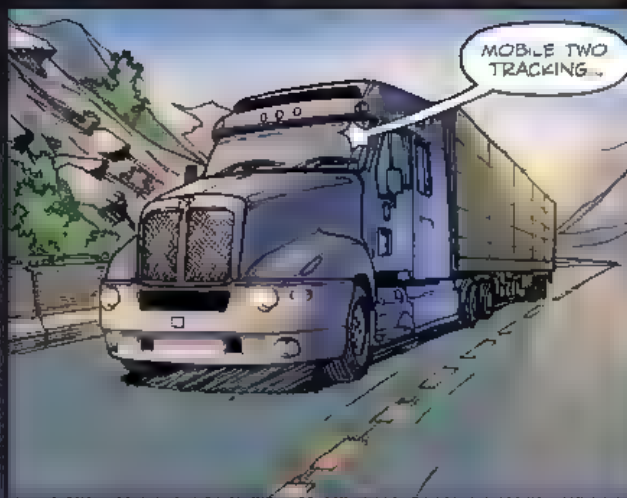
GOT 'EM.
PROCEEDING
SOUTH TO THE
94 BRAVO AND
ECHO...

...ARE IN THE
SLIDSTREAM

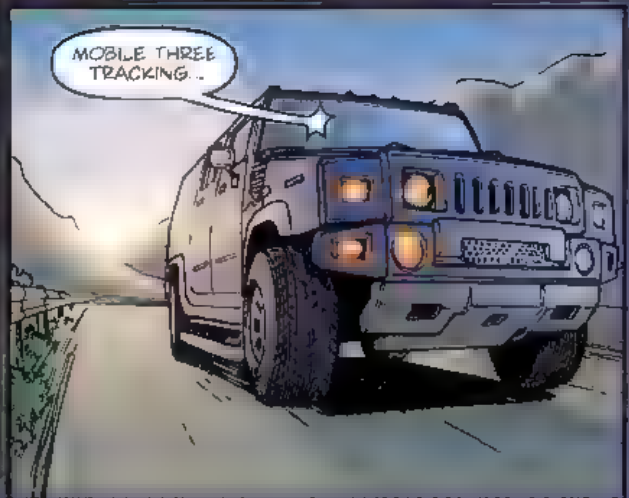


GOOD. SOON
AS WE HAVE A FIRM
DIRECTIONAL INTENT,
WE'LL ESTABLISH
AN INTERCEPT
ZONE

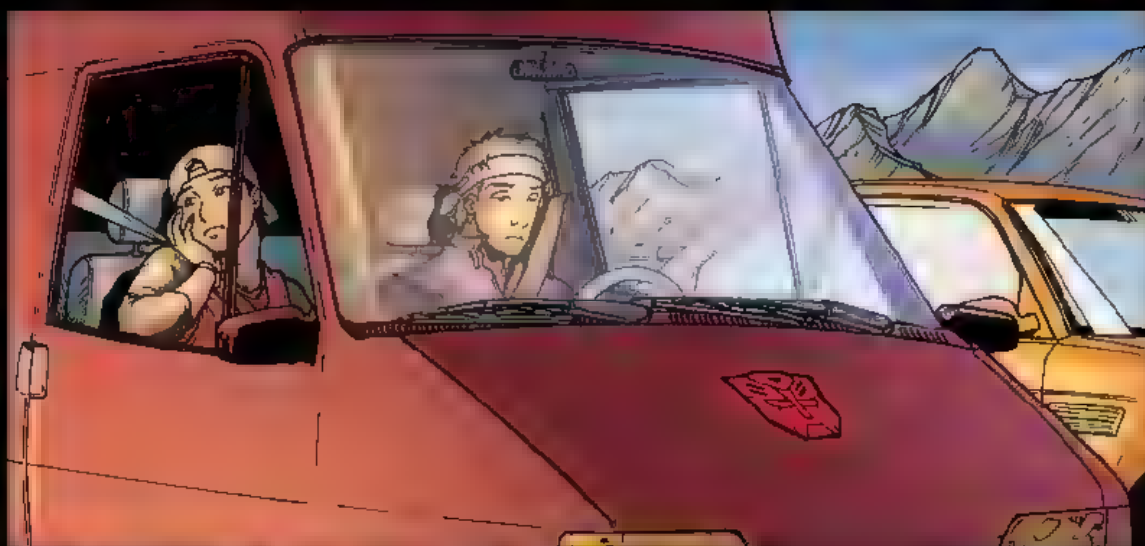
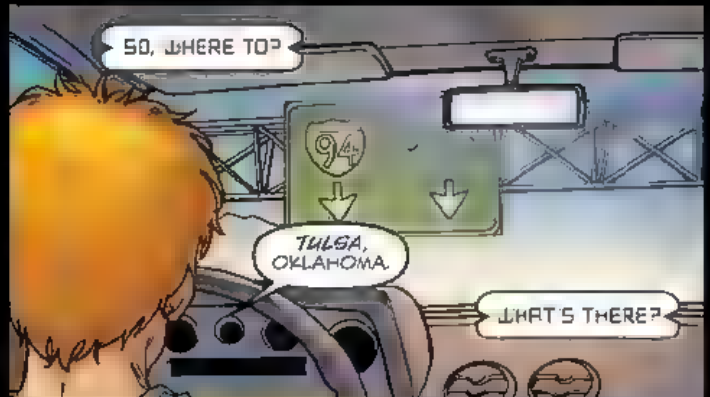
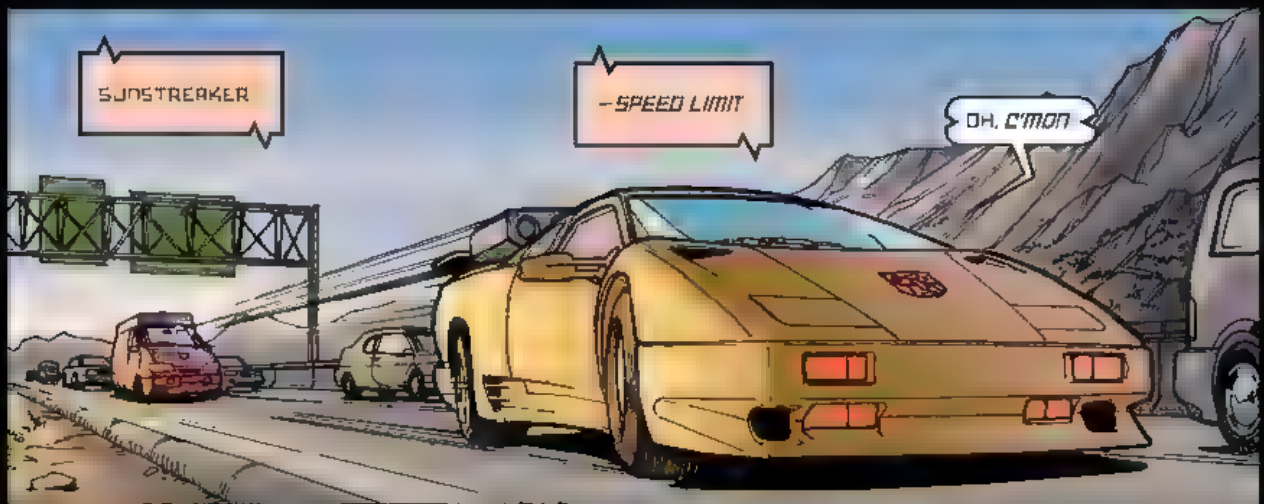
MOBILES
TWO AND THREE,
ACKNOWLEDGE



MOBILE TWO
TRACKING...



MOBILE THREE
TRACKING...



DECEPTICON COMMAND
BUNKER (OREGON)

THIS FAR, YOUR
GENERAL PERFORMANCE
HAS BEEN UNDERLYING
AT BEST, BORDERLINE
TREASONOUS AT WORST.

THAT IS
ALL GOING
TO CHANGE

I AM WILLING
TO FORGIVE AND
FORGET CERTAIN
INDISCRETIONS,
BUT THERE WILL
BE NO FURTHER
SECOND CHANCES

IS THAT
PLAINLY
UNDERSTOOD?

UH-HUH

GOTCHA

UNDERSTOOD

DITTO

CRYSTAL

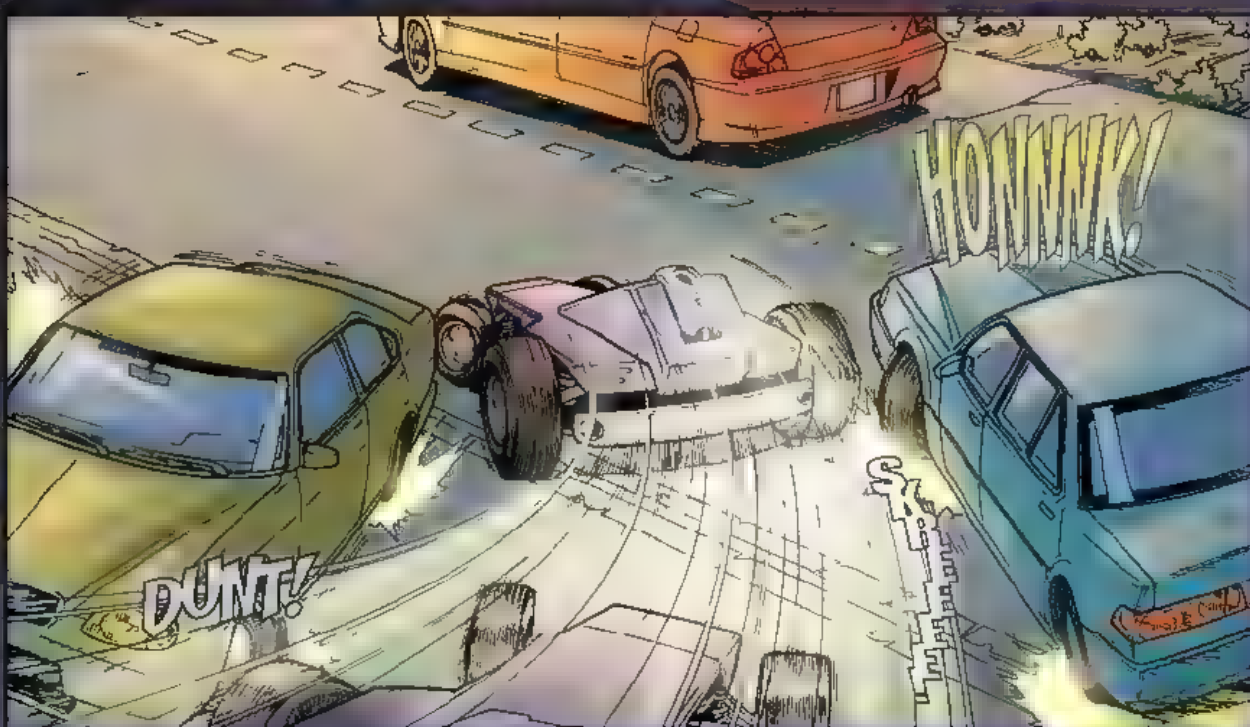
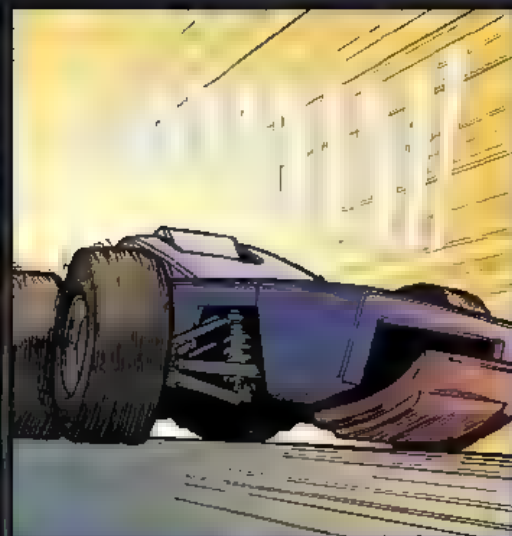
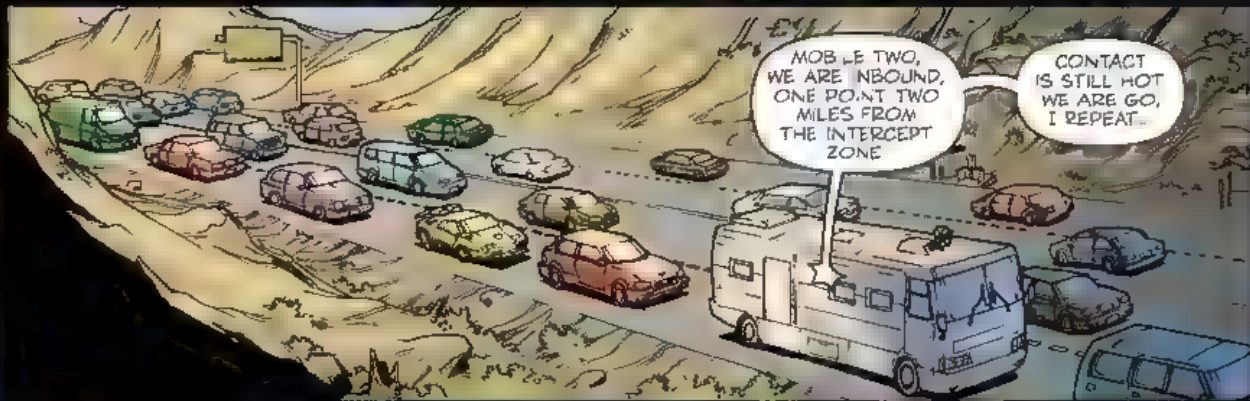
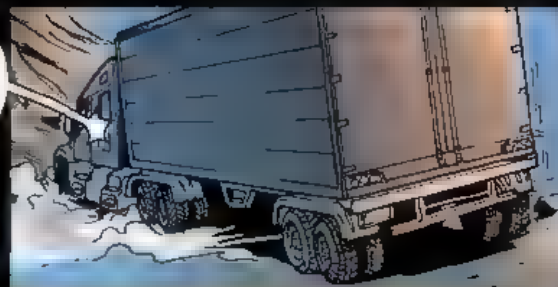
CLEAR

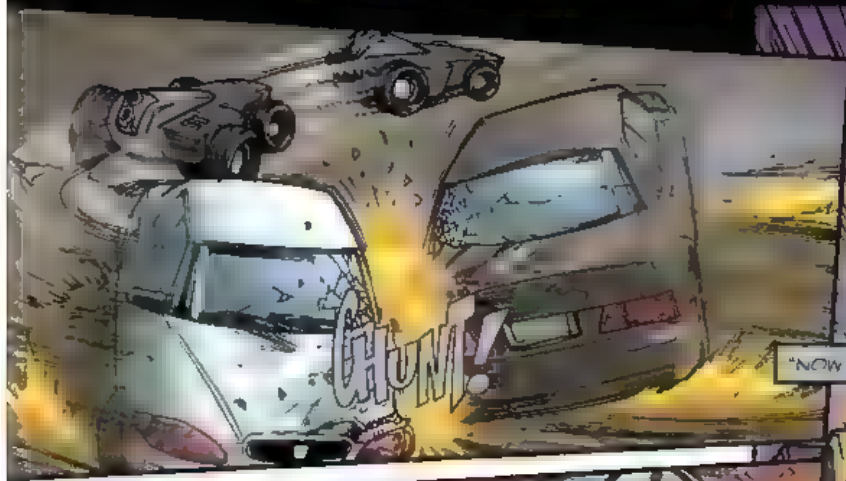
GOOD. ON A MORE
POSITIVE NOTE,
STARSCREAM—WHATEVER
HIS OTHER AGENDAS—
HAS Laid THE NECESSARY
FOUNDATIONS WITH PRECISION
AND FLAIR. WE CAN BEGIN
PHASE TWO IMMEDIATELY.
ASTROTRAIN.

ACTIVATE THE
FACSIMILES

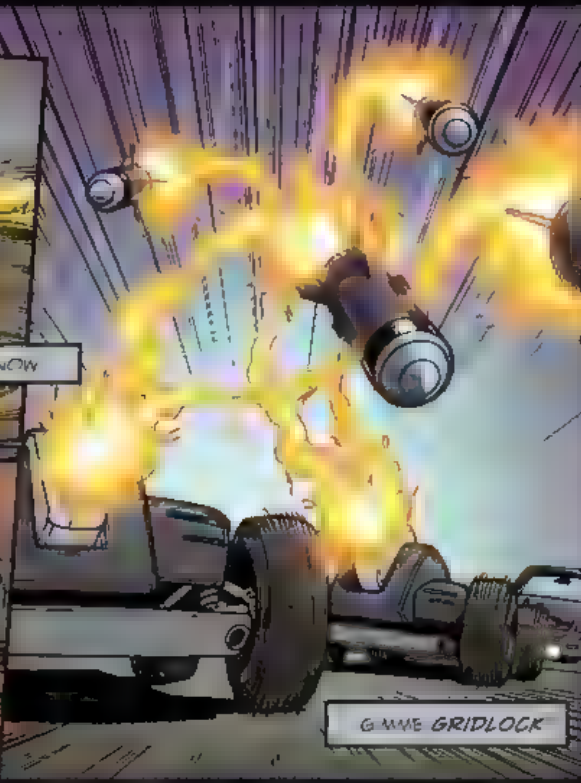
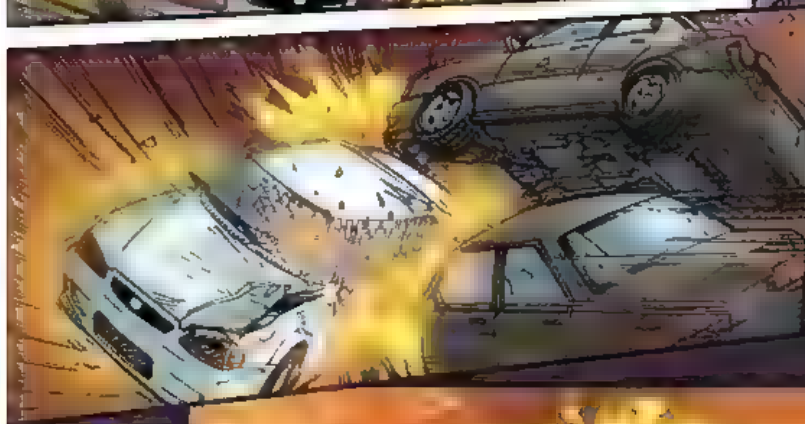


YEAH, THIS IS MOBILE TWO. WE ARE 'N POSITION

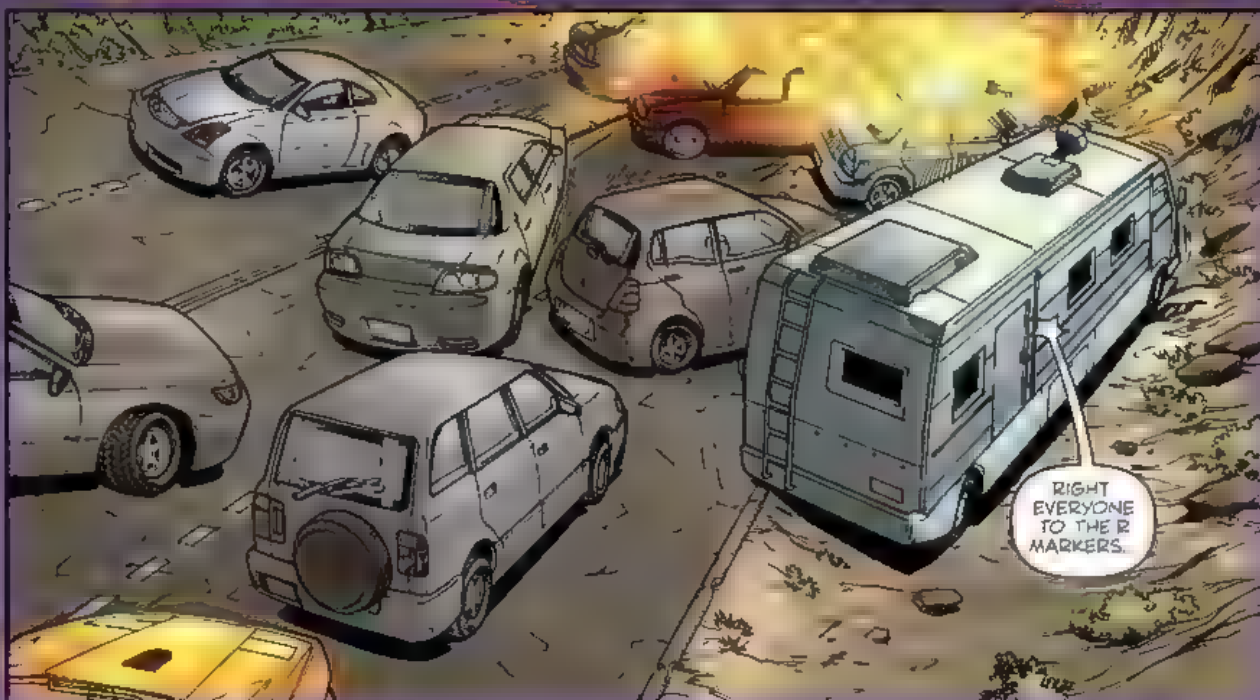




"NOW"

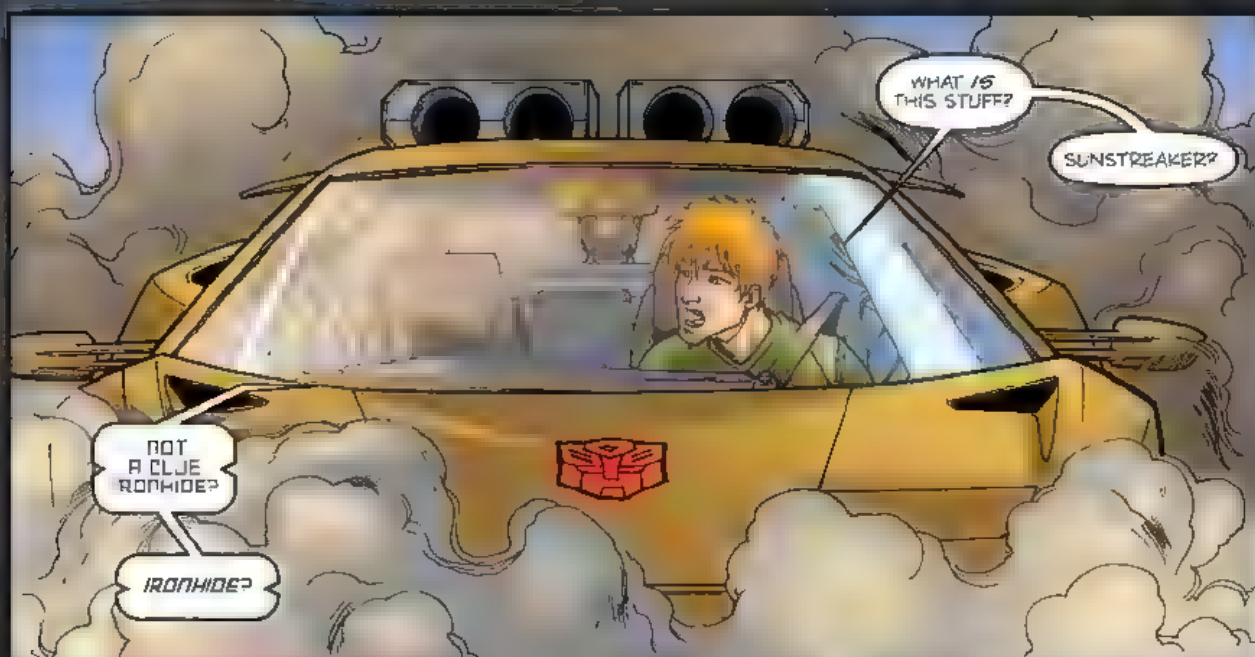
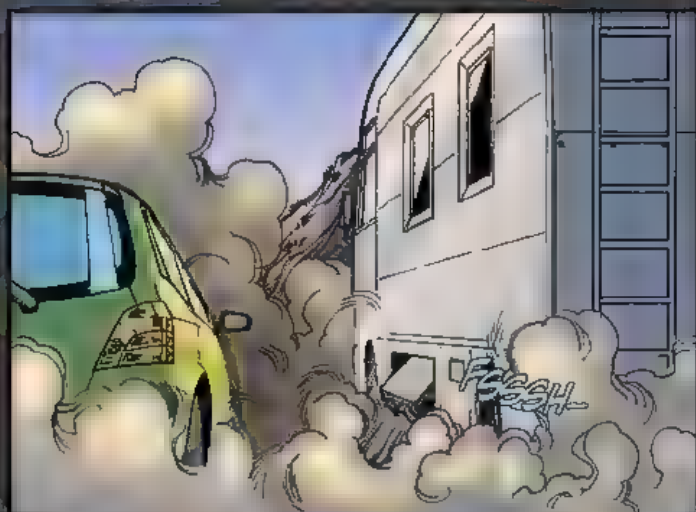


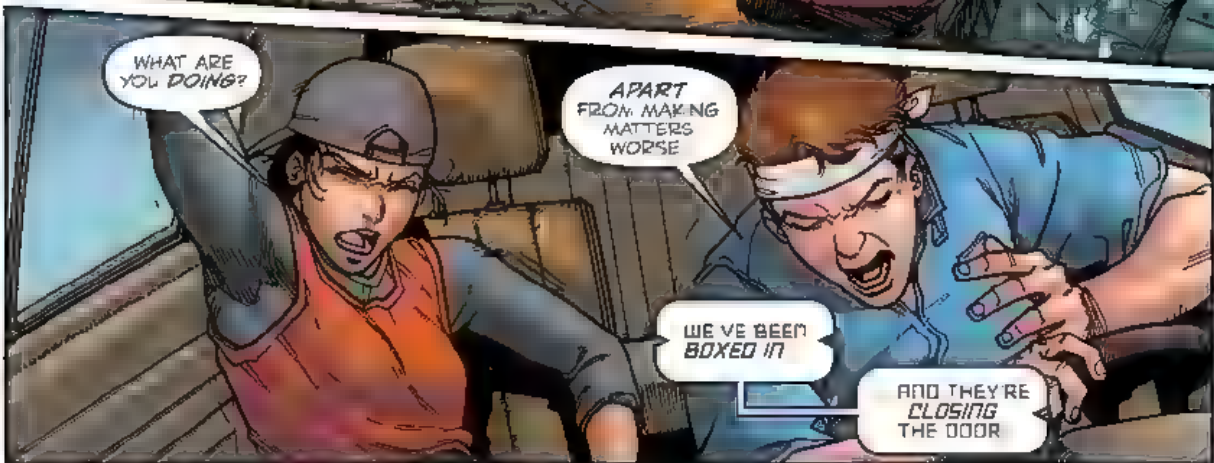
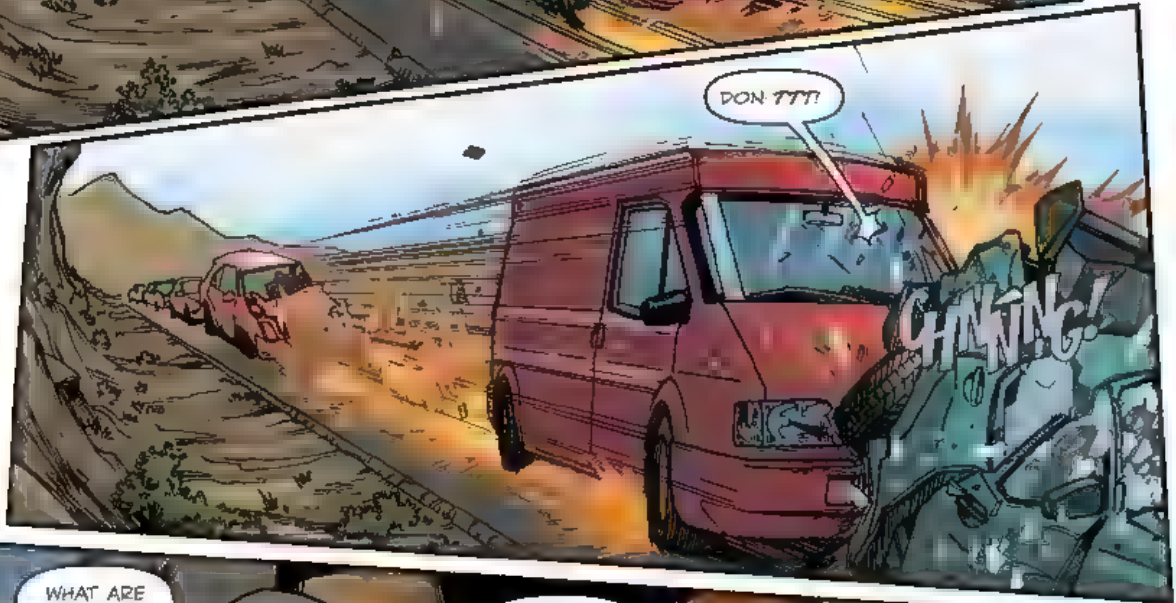
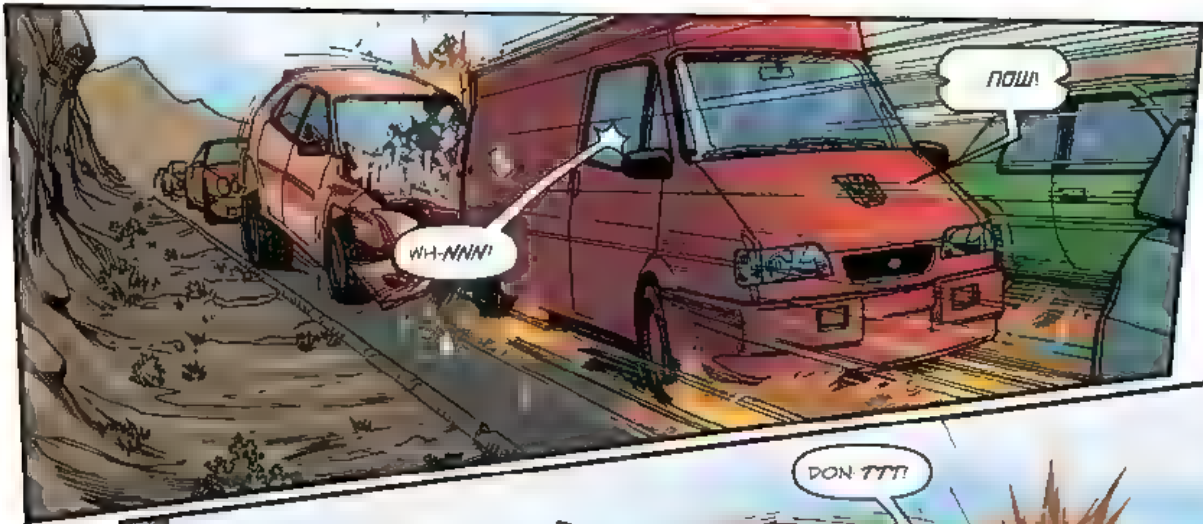
GAME GRIDLOCK

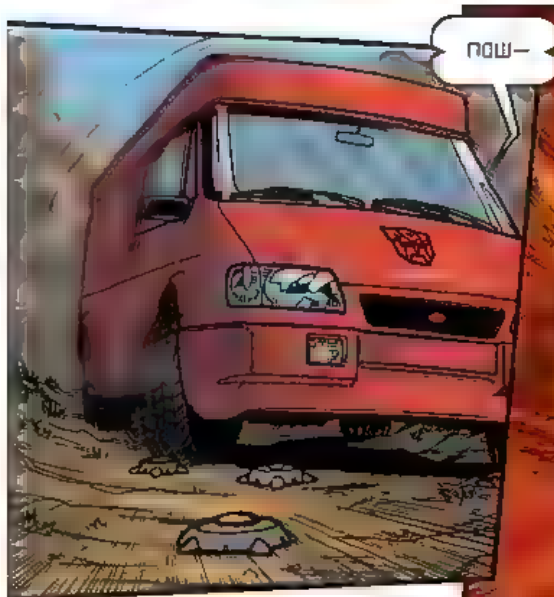
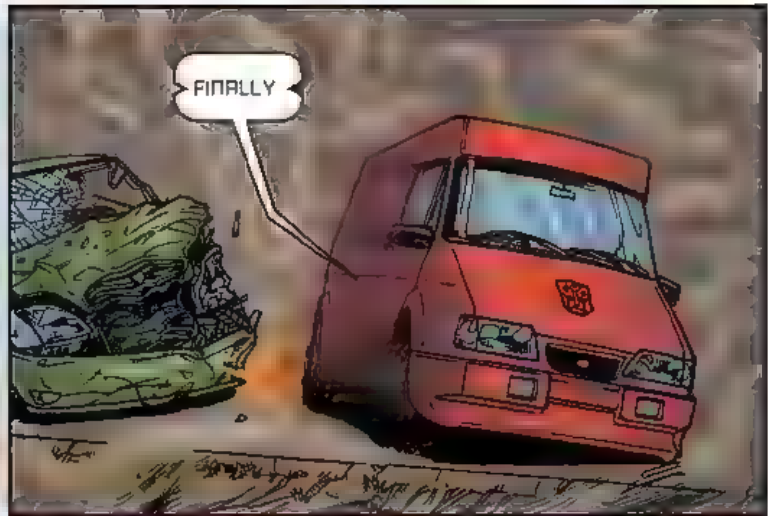
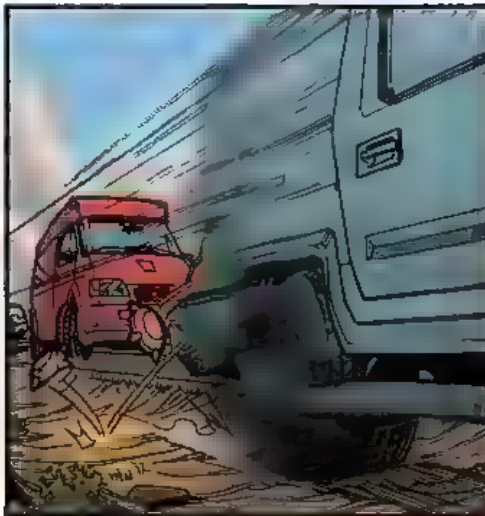


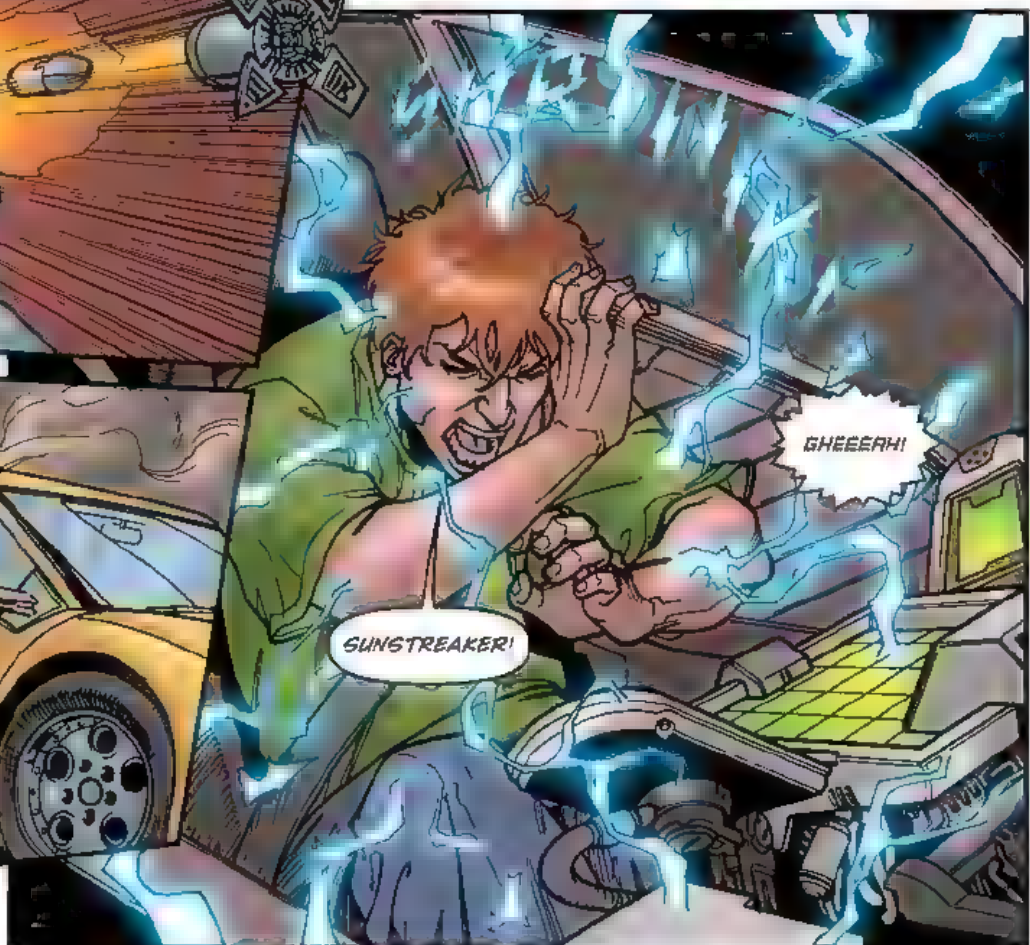
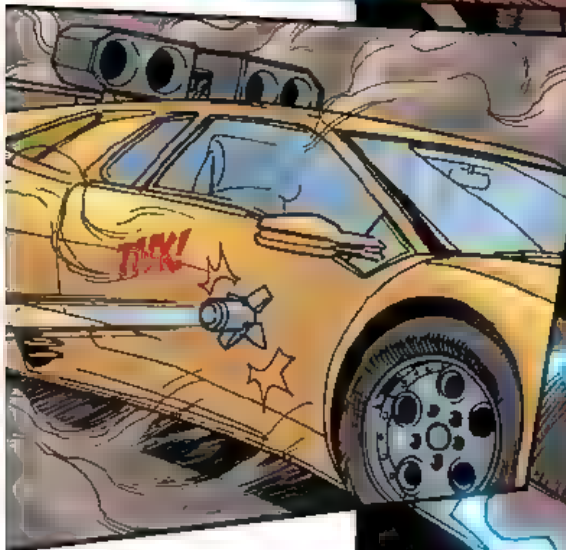
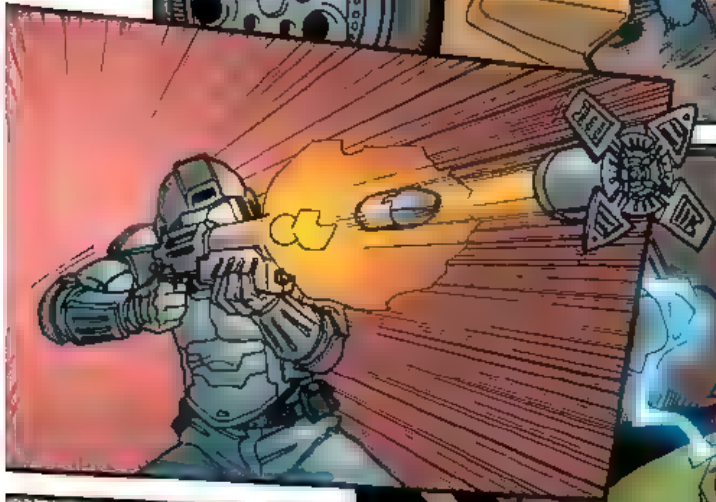
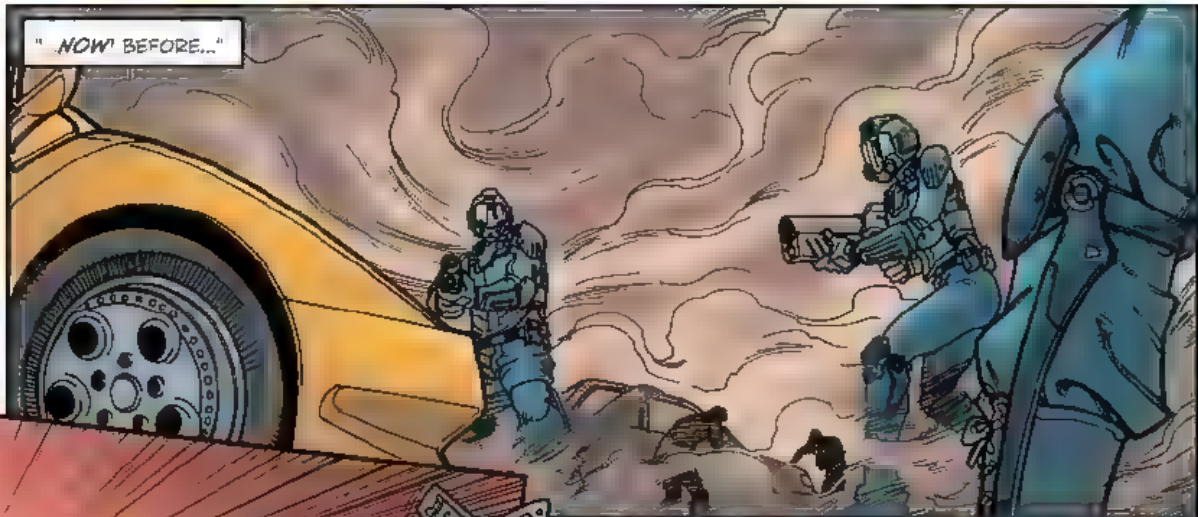
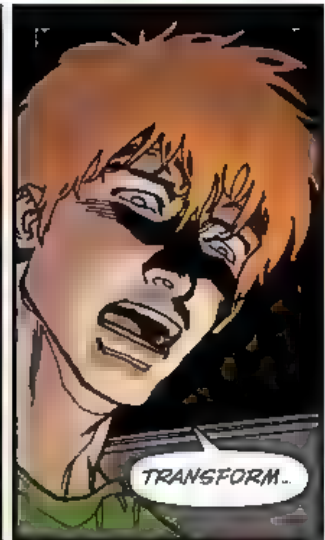
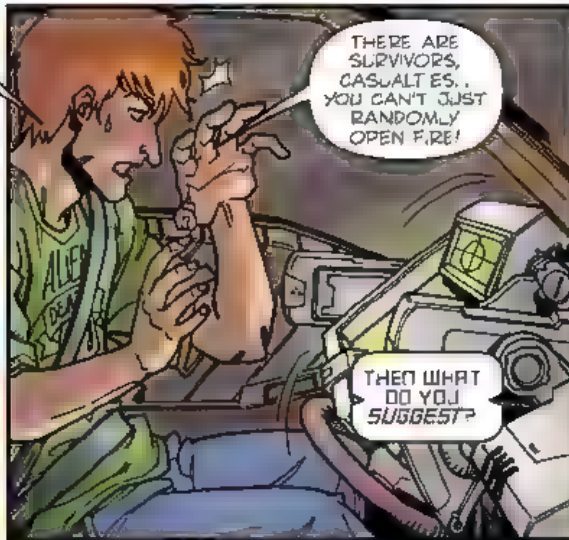
RIGHT EVERYONE TO THE R MARKERS.

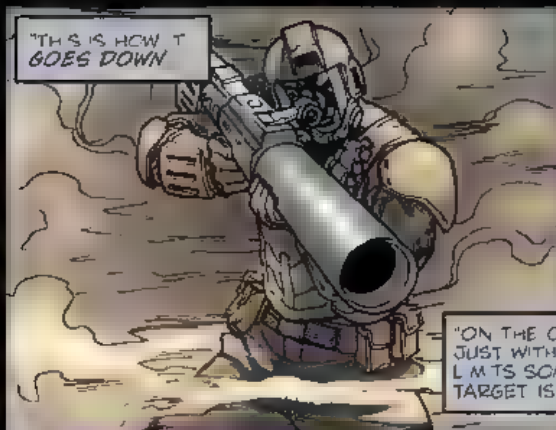
" TARGET IS IN THE TUBE "



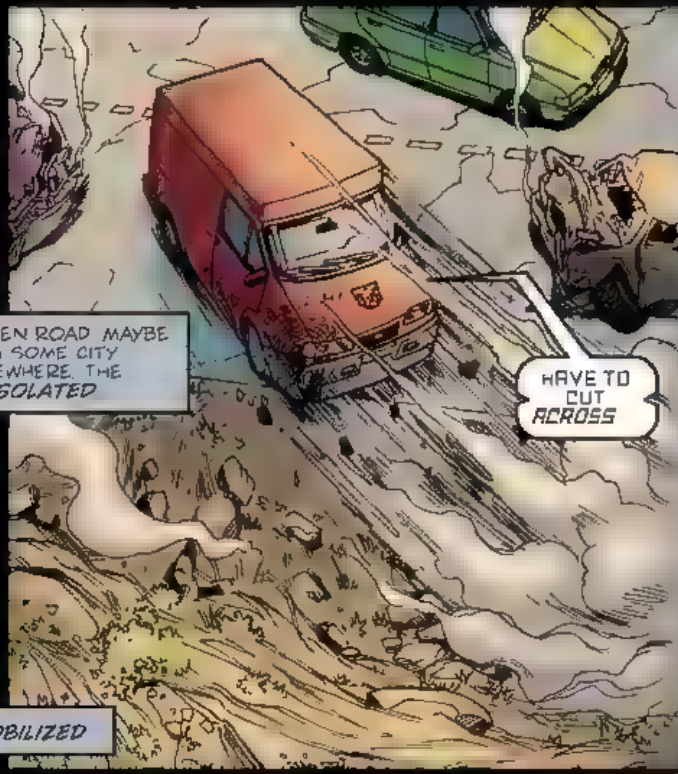






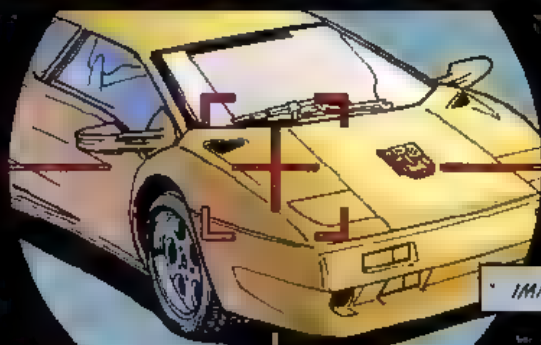


"THIS IS HOW IT GOES DOWN"



"ON THE OPEN ROAD MAYBE JUST WITHIN SOME CITY LIMITS SOMEWHERE THE TARGET IS ISOLATED"

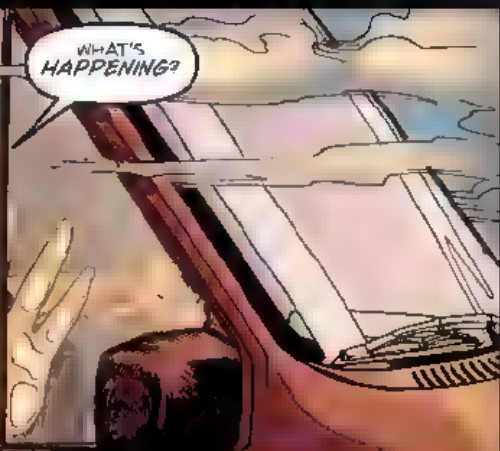
"HAVE TO CUT ACROSS"



"IMMOBILIZED"



"CAN'T SEE!"

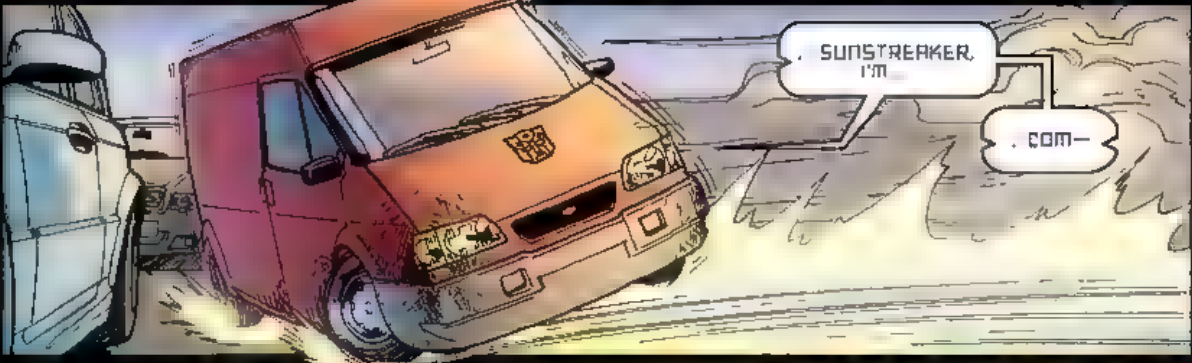
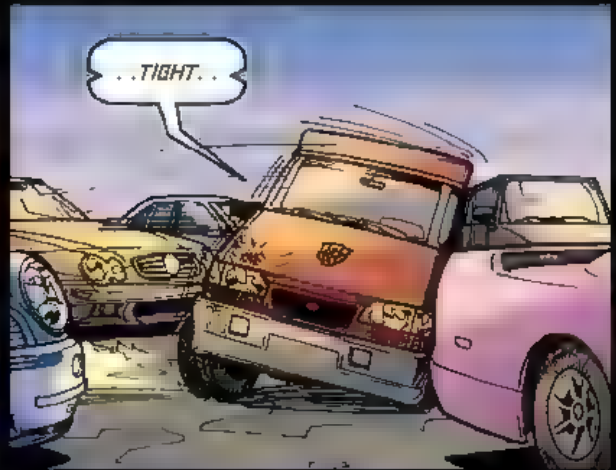
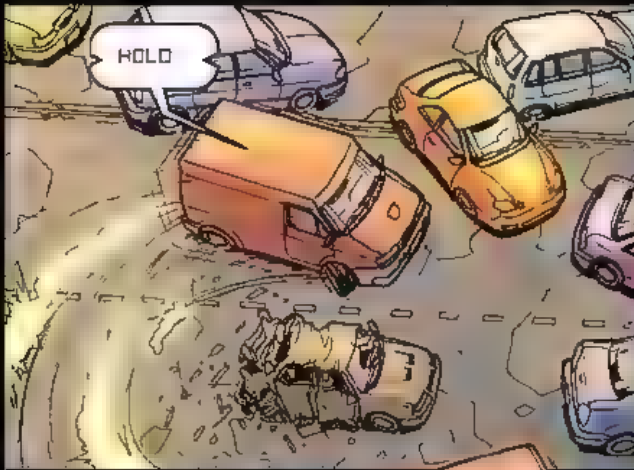


"WHAT'S HAPPENING?"



"THEN"

WHOOOOO!!!



TO BE CONTINUED.



THE TRANSFORMERS ESCALATION





THE TRANSFORMERS™ ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY **SIMON FURMAN**

ART BY **E.J. SU**

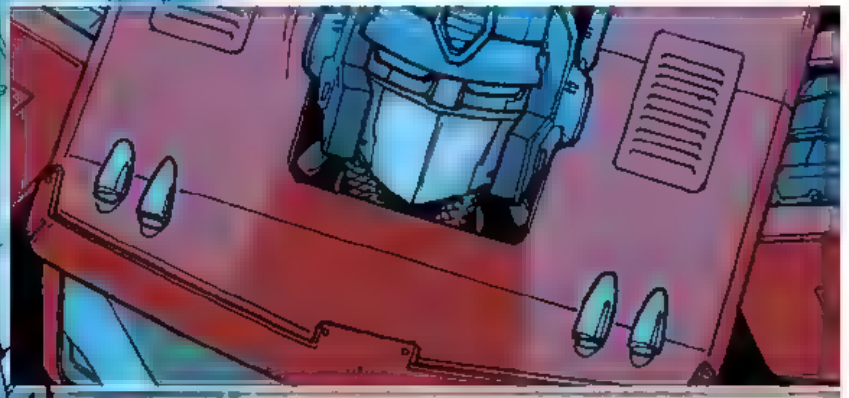
COLORS BY **ZAC ATKINSON**

LETTERS BY **NEIL UYETAKE**

EDITS BY **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY **E.J. SU**

VARIANT COVER BY **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**



ISSUE NUMBER TWO

ESCALATION

The mysterious organization known as the Machination has struck! On the outskirts of Lebanon Missouri, with controlled precision, AUTOBOT trooper SUNSTREAKER and his human passenger HUNTER O'NION, have been ruthlessly taken out of the game. As OPTIMUS PRIME and the AUTOBOTS struggle to muster a response to the tragedy, so the DECEPTICONS—now under the direct command of MEGATRON—begin to transform their covert strategies to date into direct action of their own ..

PHASE TWO CONTINUES ..



Licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Amie Lozanski and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

THE TRANSFORMERS: ESCALATION #2 DECEMBER 2006 FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2006 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

IDW Publishing is
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robb e Robbins, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Aronzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Prisman, Business Development

WASHINGTON DC
(NINE MONTHS AGO)

GENERAL

SENATOR

WHAT IS IT
I CAN DO
FOR YOU?

WELL, BETWEEN
YOU AND „ MY
OFFICE IS FUNDED,
FOR THE MOST PART,
BY AN O.L. COMPANY
OF SOME REPUTE AND
INF„JENCE,
DOMESTICALLY
SPEAKING.

TALK OF TROOP
WITHDRAWALS AND
CEASEFIRES IN
CERTAIN **DISPUTED**
REGIONS OF THE
GULF „S MAKING THEM
ANTSY THEY
WANT

JAMES A GARFIELD
1851 - 1881

...REASSURANCES.

STABILITY
OVER THERE IS,
AH, **BAD** FOR
BUSINESS HERE
IS THAT IT?

EXACTLY.

WE'LL RELAX,
SENATOR, YOU
TELL THEM.

...WE'RE **IN**
FOR THE LONG
HALL!

IDENTITY CONFIRMED

COMMENCING **PRIMARY**
TARGET ACQUISITION



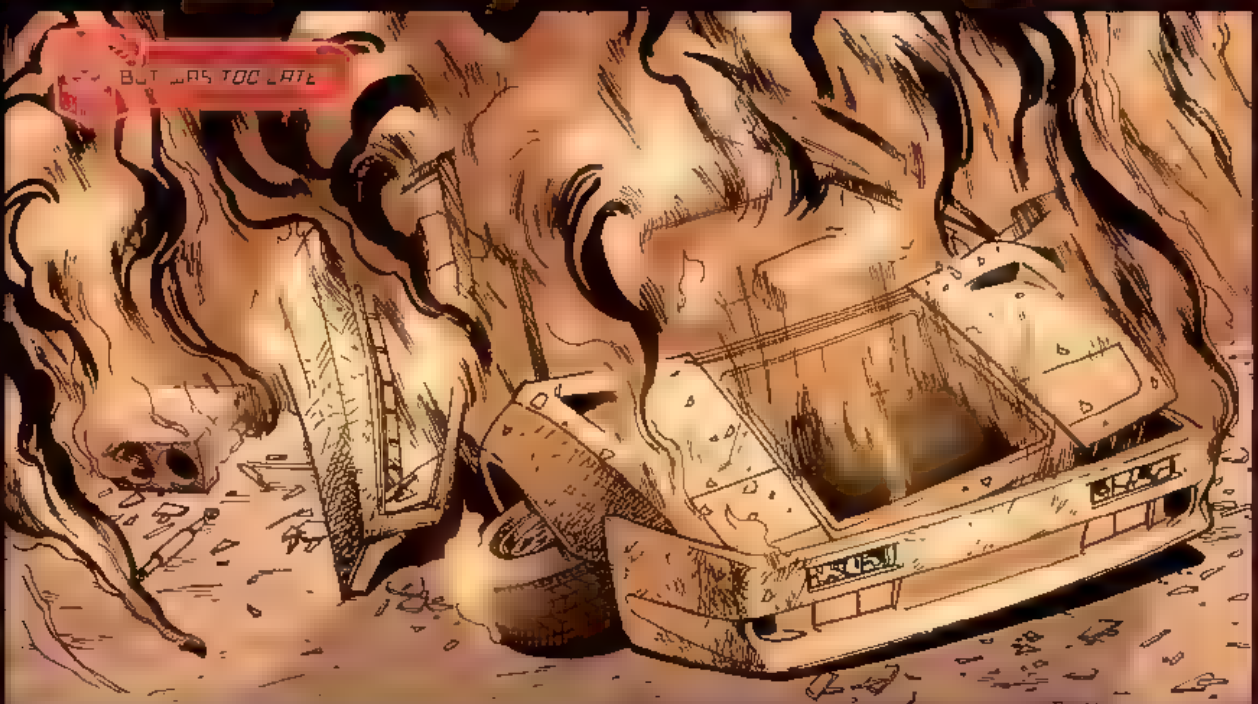
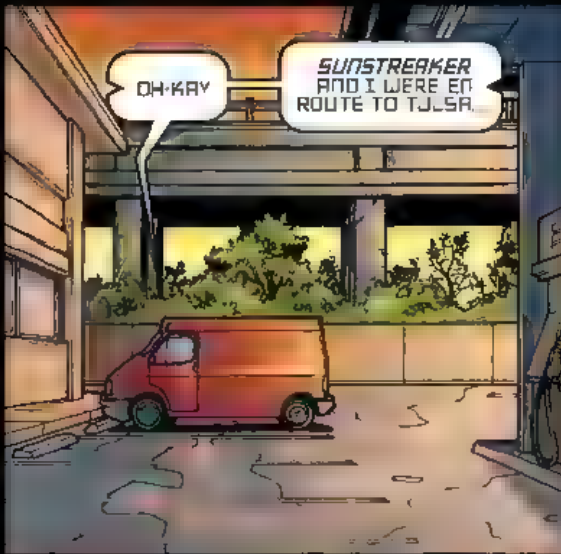
INTERSTATE I-57, JUST EAST
OF ST. LOUIS (NOW)

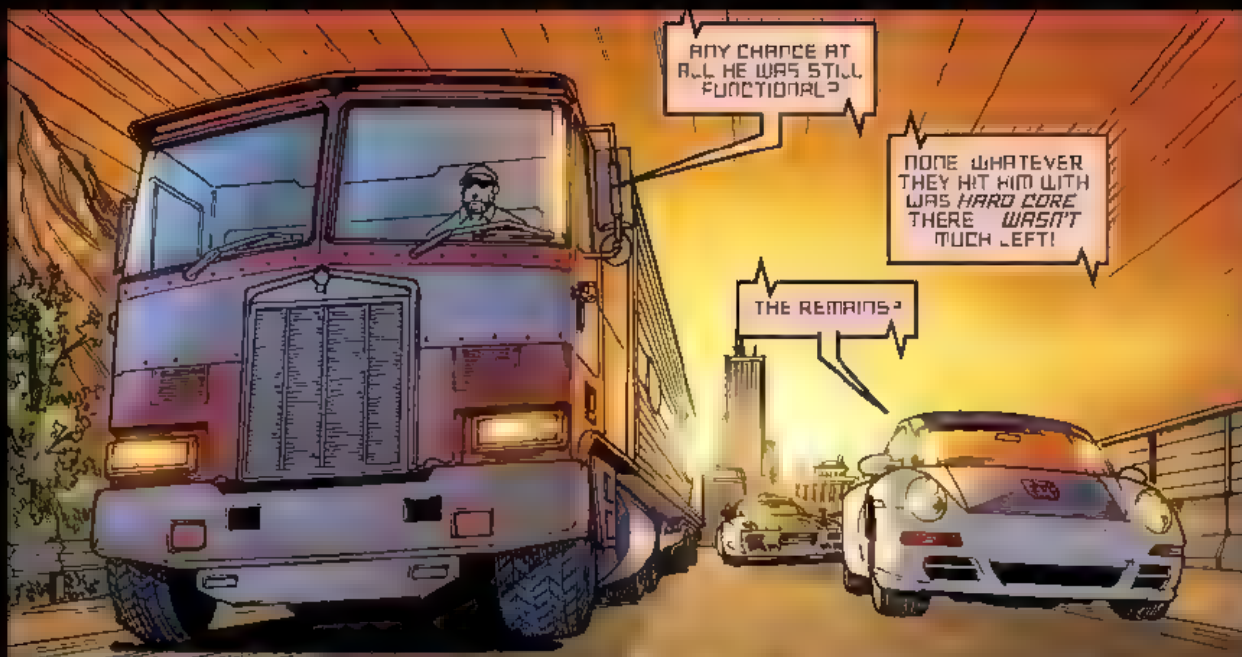
ONCE AGAIN,
IRONHIDE, FROM
THE TOP ..

PRIME? I'M NOT
SURE I HAVE MUCH TO
ADD TO MY ORIGINAL
REPORT, BUT IF YOU
THINK IT WILL HELP ..

100



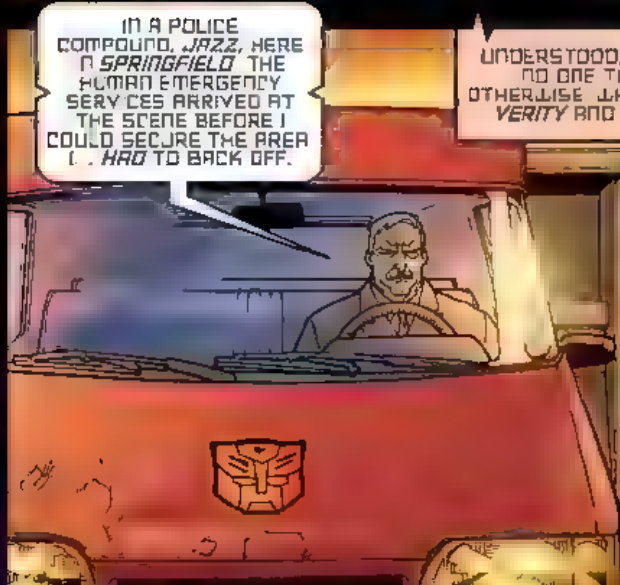




ANY CHANCE AT ALL HE WAS STILL FUNCTIONAL?

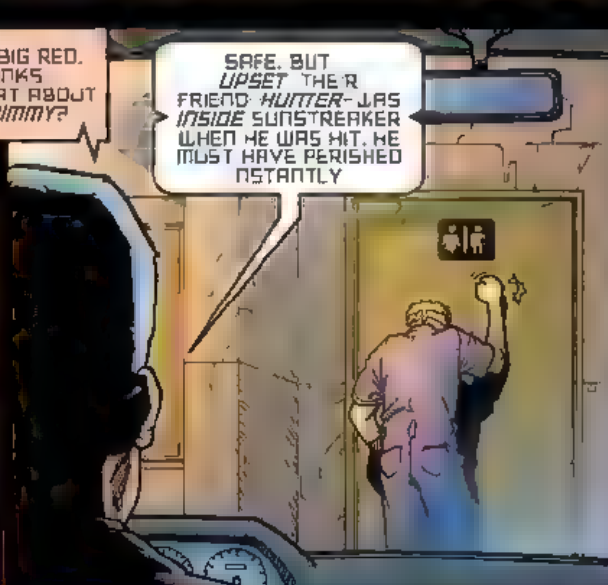
NONE. WHATEVER THEY HIT HIM WITH WAS HARD CORE. THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT!

THE REMAINS?



IN A POLICE COMPOUND, JAZZ, HERE IN SPRINGFIELD, THE HUMAN EMERGENCY SERVICES ARRIVED AT THE SCENE BEFORE I COULD SECURE THE AREA. I HAD TO BACK OFF.

UNDERSTOOD, BIG RED. NO ONE THINKS OTHERWISE. WHAT ABOUT VERITY AND JIMMY?



SAFE, BUT UPSET THE FRIEND HUNTER WAS INSIDE SUNSTREAKER WHEN HE WAS HIT. HE MUST HAVE PERISHED INSTANTLY.

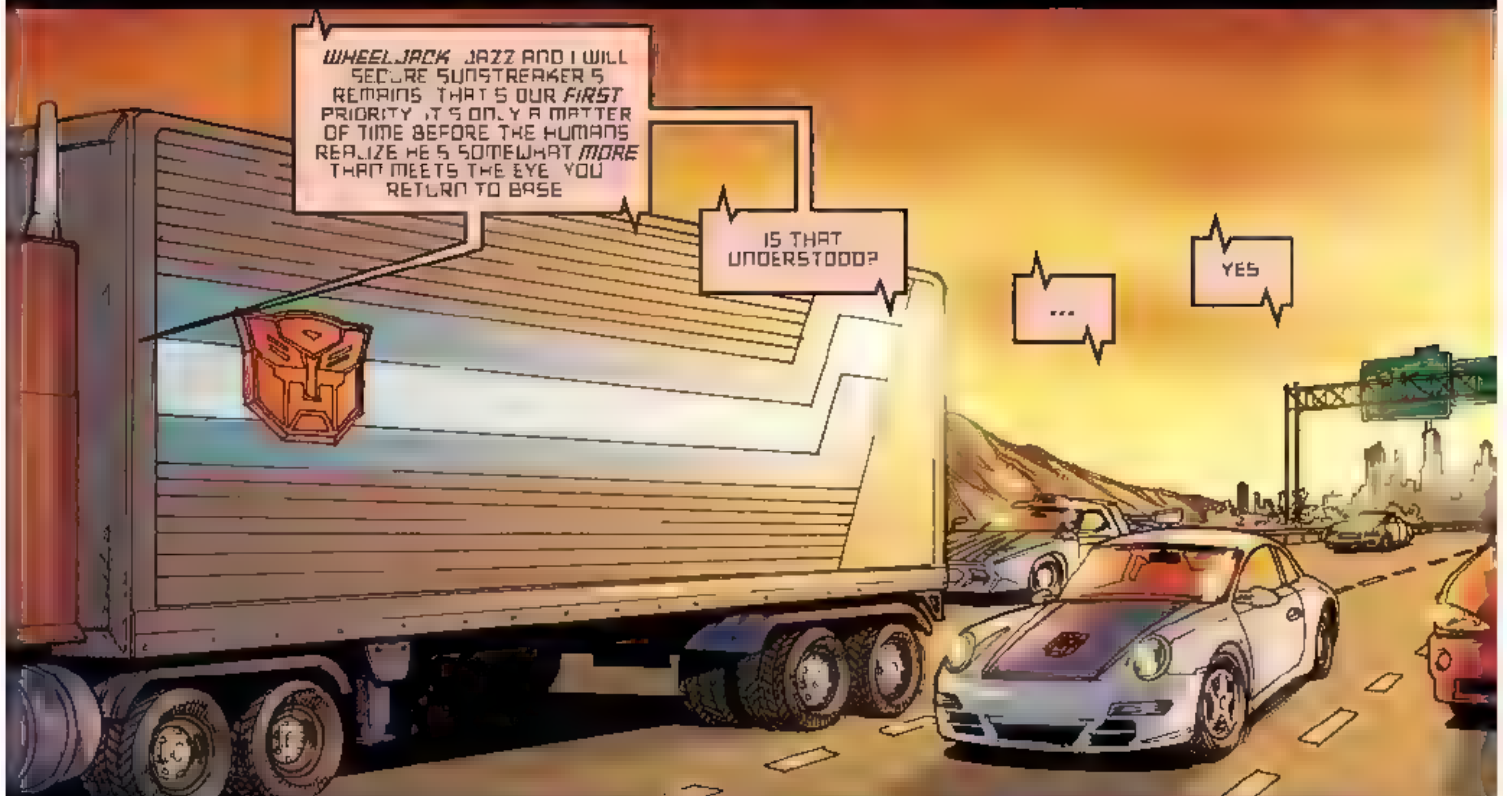


PRIME

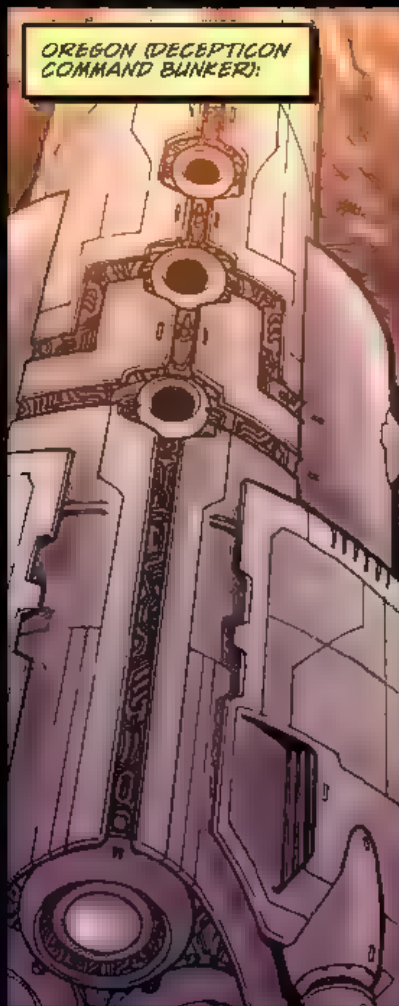
THIS HAS TO BE A DECEPTION ORCHESTRATED. ASSAULT THE WEAPONS USED WERE TAILOR-MADE FOR THE JOB. THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHERE AND HOW TO HURT US.

I SAY WE TAKE THIS RIGHT TO THE DOOR AND KICK IT IN!

NO ABSOLUTELY NOT!



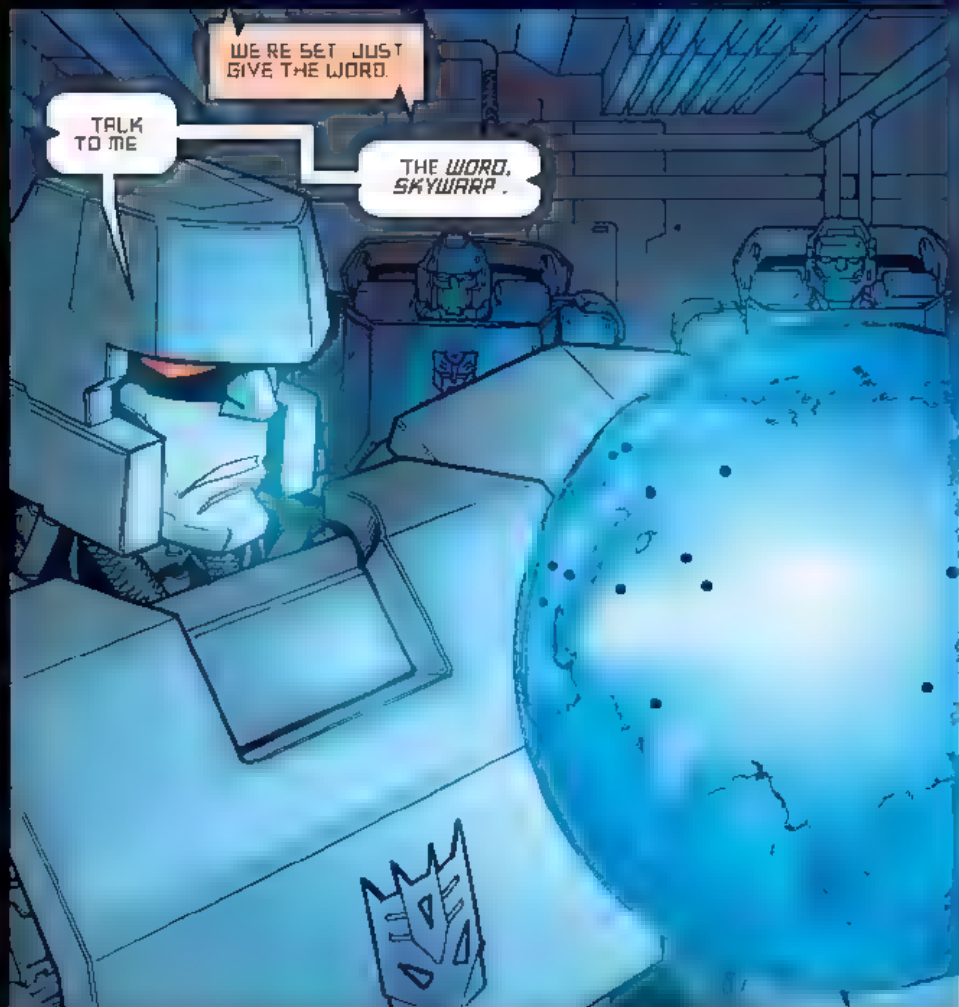
OREGON (DECEPTICON
COMMAND BUNKER):



WE'RE SET. JUST
GIVE THE WORD.

TALK
TO ME

THE WORD,
SKYWARP.



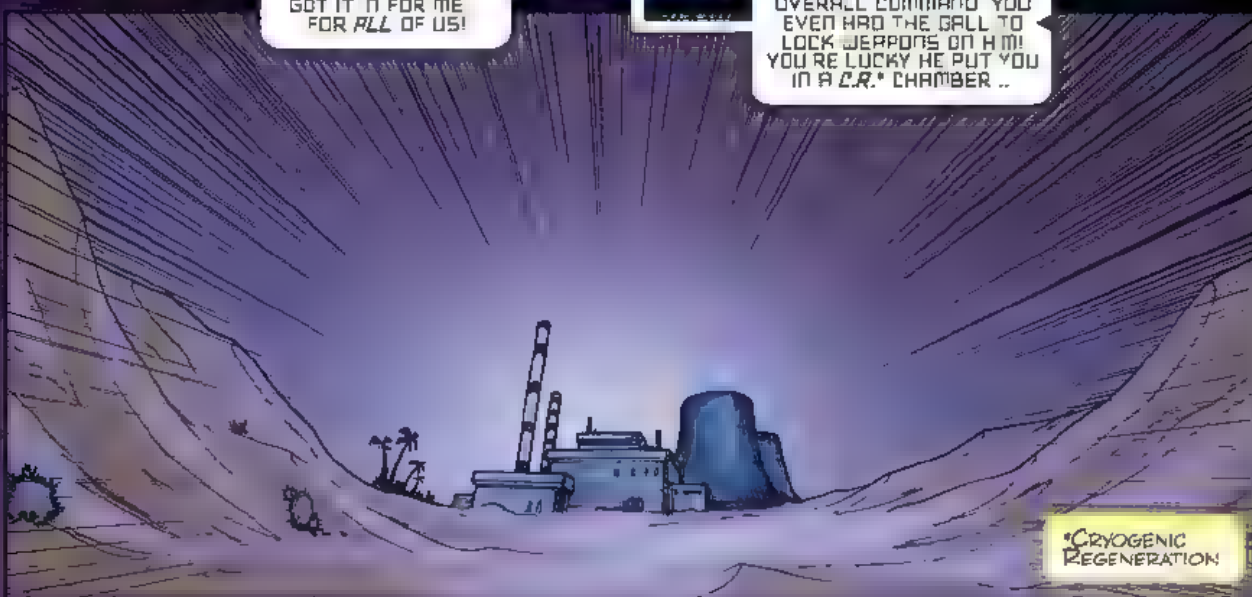
IS GIVEN OR
NOT DISAPPOINT
ME AGAIN

RIGHT, YEAH
SKYWARP OUT

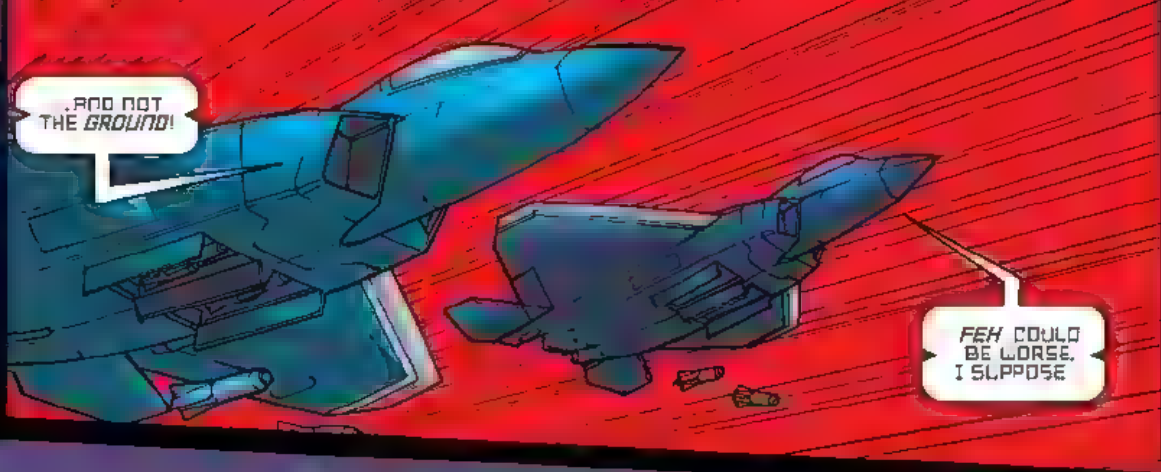
I TELL YOU,
THUNDERCRACKER,
HE'S DEFINITELY
GOT IT IN FOR ME
FOR ALL OF US!

CAN YOU
BLAME HIM?

AFTER ALL, WE *DID*
TRY TO USURP HIS
OVERALL COMMAND. YOU
EVEN HAD THE GALL TO
LOCK WEAPONS ON HIM!
YOU'RE LUCKY HE PUT YOU
IN A C.R.* CHAMBER...

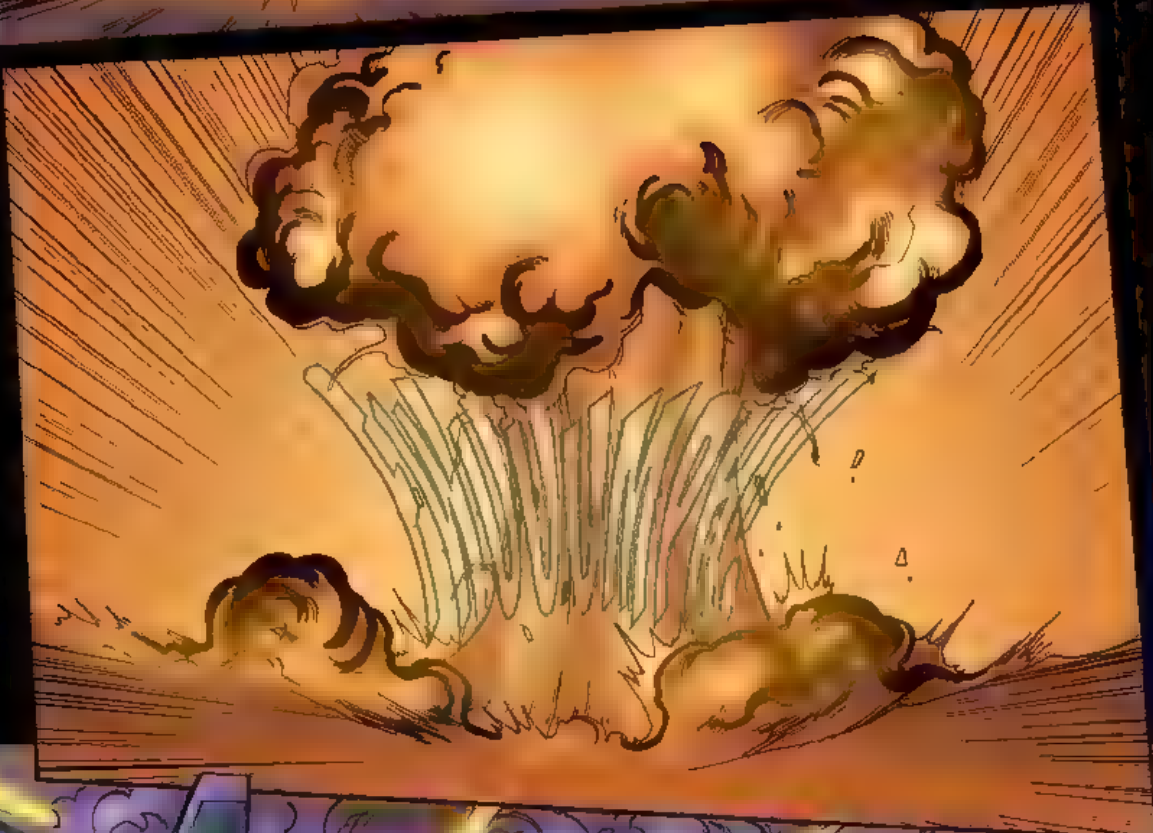


*CRYOGENIC
REGENERATION

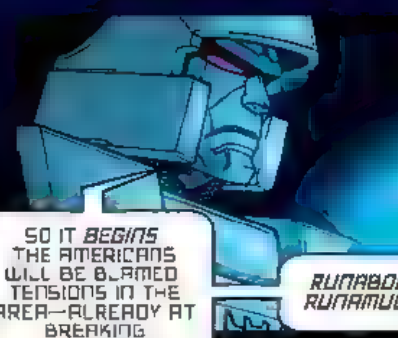


...AND NOT
THE GROUND!

FEH COULD
BE WORSE.
I SUPPOSE



COULD BE
STARSCREAM



SO IT BEGINS
THE AMERICANS
WILL BE BLAMED
TENSIONS IN THE
AREA—ALREADY AT
BREAKING
POINT—WILL RISE!

RUNABOUT,
RUNAMUCK

BUT?

SEE THAT
YOUR PUPPETS
DANCE TO THE TUNE
THEY WERE TAUGHT
DO NOT IMPROVISE.

YES,
MEGATRON.

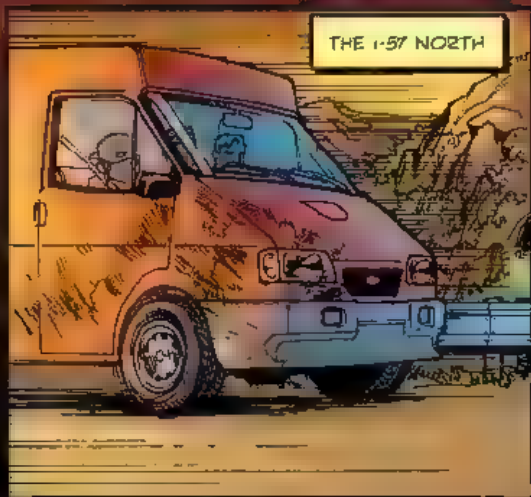
I SUPPOSE IT
WOULDN'T HURT TO
LINGER A WHILE
LONGER, IF NOTHING
ELSE TO TRY OUT
TH'S INTRIGUING NEW
EXO-STRUCTURE.

I WONDER...

NO,
MEGATRON

WITH PHASE TWO
SET IN MOTION, I
SHOULD SIMPLY
WITHDRAW AND
INSTALL A NEW JOINT
COMMANDER.

WHERE
SHALL I
PLAY



THE I-57 NORTH



I DON'T GET IT, IRONHIDE. HOW COULD *THE* BE THE DECEPTICONS?

THOSE GUYS WERE FLESH AND BLOOD, NO QUESTION.



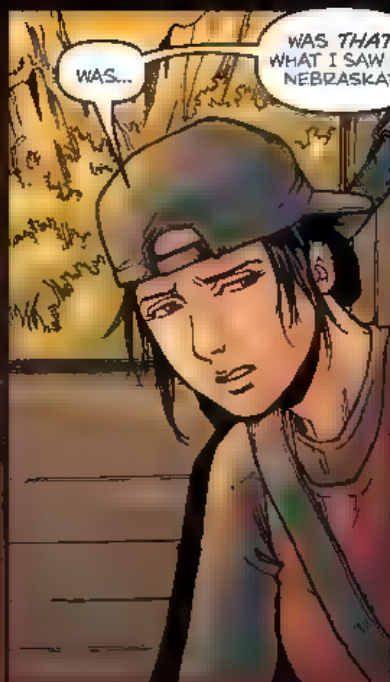
THINK, S. JIMMY, THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN NOT ENTIRELY

THE DECEPTICONS EMPLOY *FACSIMILE* AVATARS, BIO TECHNOLOGICAL ORGANISMS GROWN IN FUSION TUBES

AND THESE FACSIMILES, THEY LOOK LIKE US?

LOOK LIKE YOU, THINK LIKE YOU. MANY ARE IMPLANTED WITH ACTUAL MEMORY ENGRAMS, TAKEN FROM THE ORIGINAL SUBJECT UNTIL THEY'RE ACTIVATED. THEY DON'T EVEN *KNOW* THEY'RE ARTIFICIAL.

EESH.

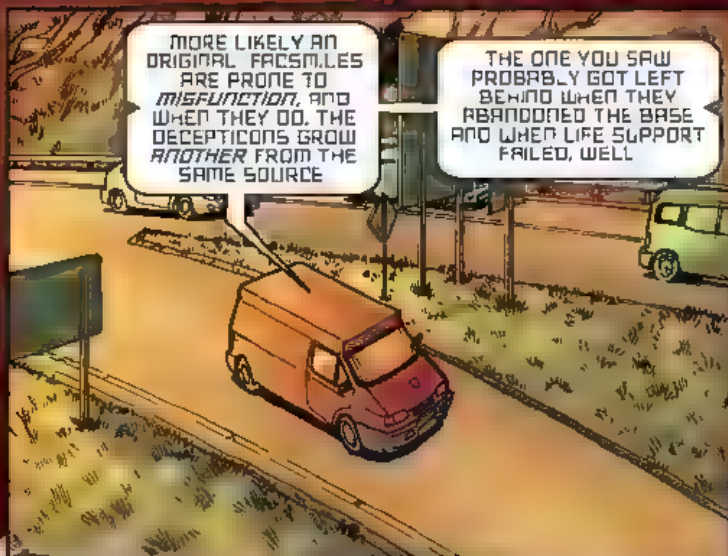


WAS...

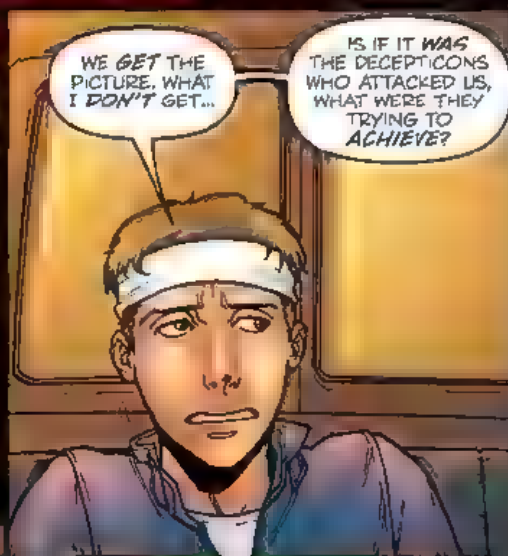
WAS THAT WHAT I SAW IN NEBRASKA?

A FACSIMILE?





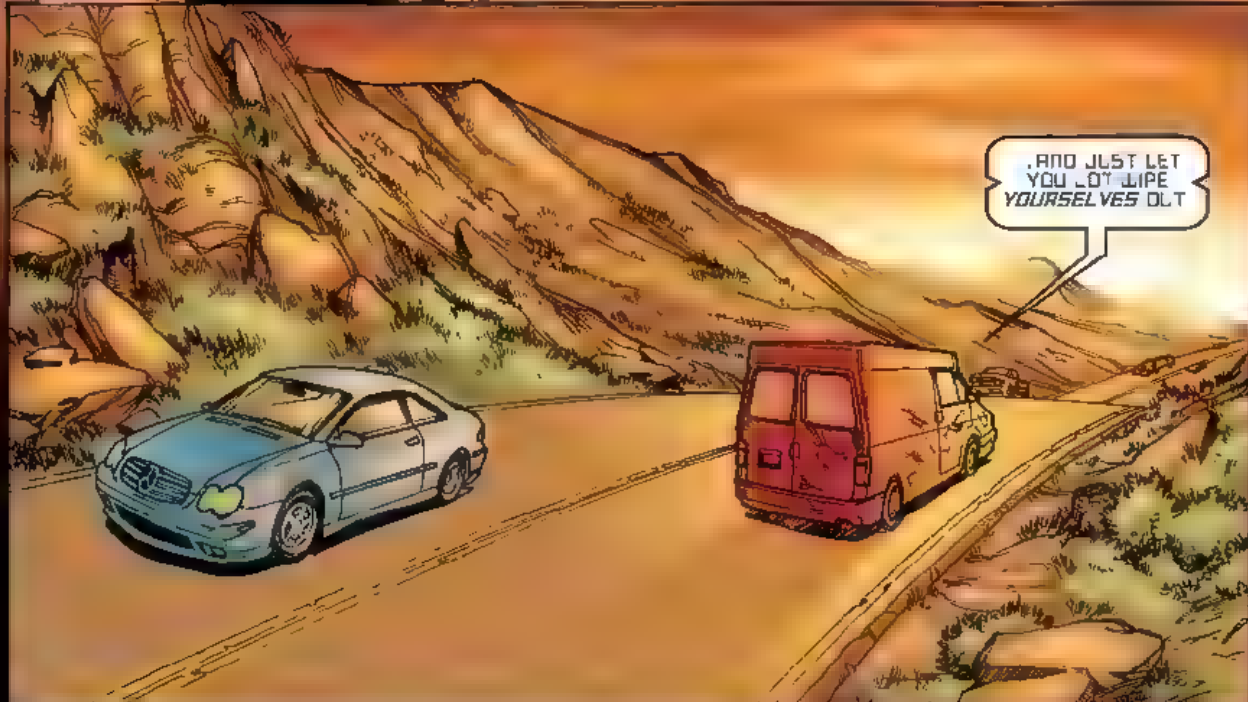
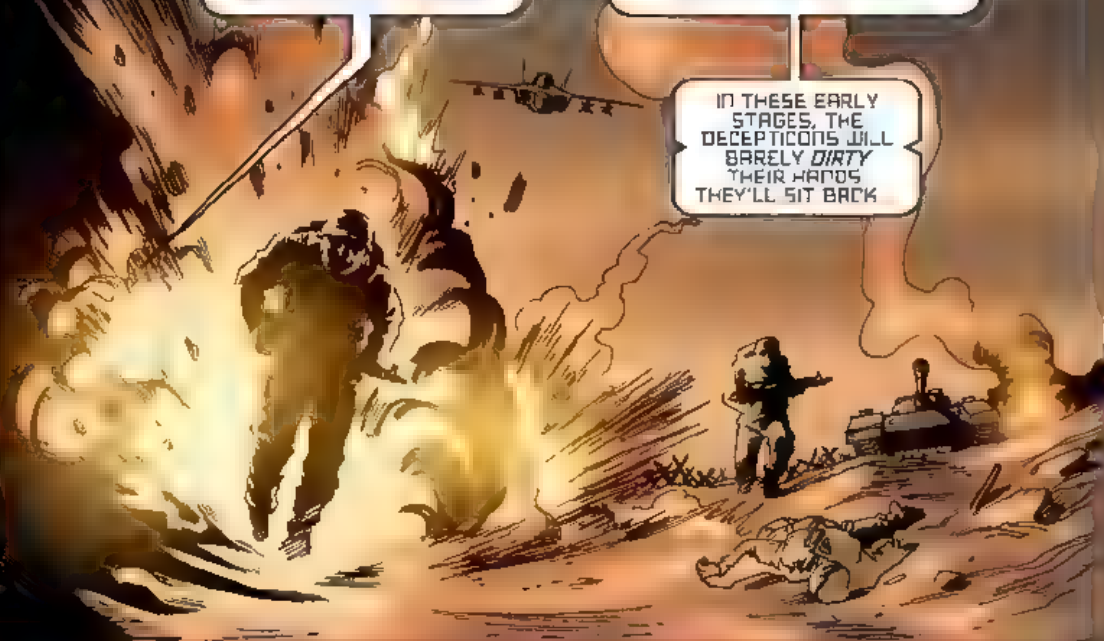
THE ONE YOU SAW PROBABLY GOT LEFT BEHIND WHEN THEY ABANDONED THE BASE AND WHEN LIFE SUPPORT FAILED, WELL



I SUPPOSE MEGATRON COULD BE TRYING TO GOAD US INTO A REPRISAL. IT FITS THE DECEPTICONS' UNDER MINDS OPERANDI

STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR PHASE TWO IS TO AGITATE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL HOTSPOTS THEREBY PROVOKING GLOBAL CONFRONTATION

IN THESE EARLY STAGES, THE DECEPTICONS WILL BARELY DIRTY THEIR HANDS THEY'LL SIT BACK



AND JUST LET YOU LOT WIPE YOURSELVES OUT

SPRINGFIELD PD,
IMPOUND LOT:

THIS IS
THE PLACE
JHEE, JACK..

NO SIGN OF
SUNSTREAKER'S
MORTAL REMAINS.
JAZZ HE MUST BE
WITHIN THE MAIN
STRUCTURE

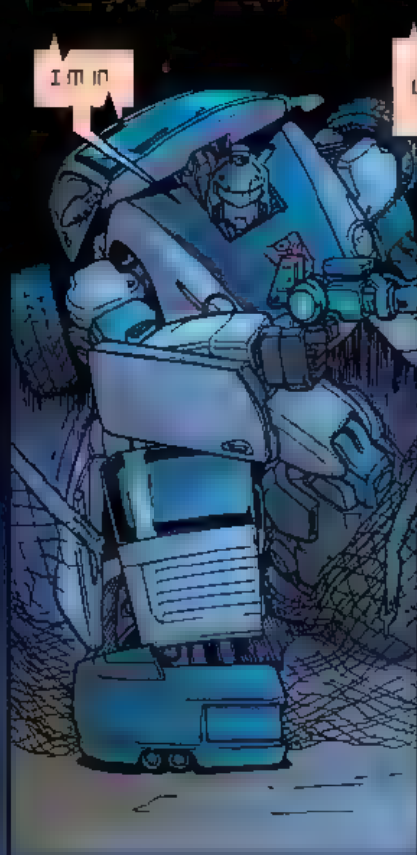
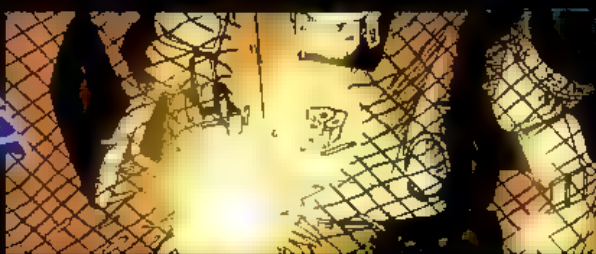
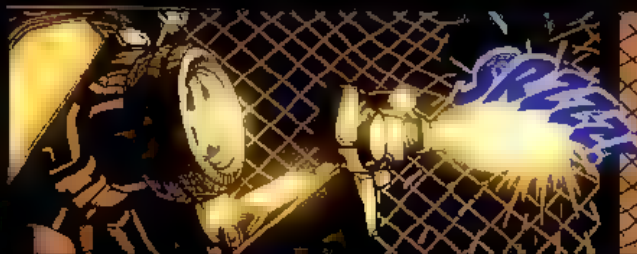
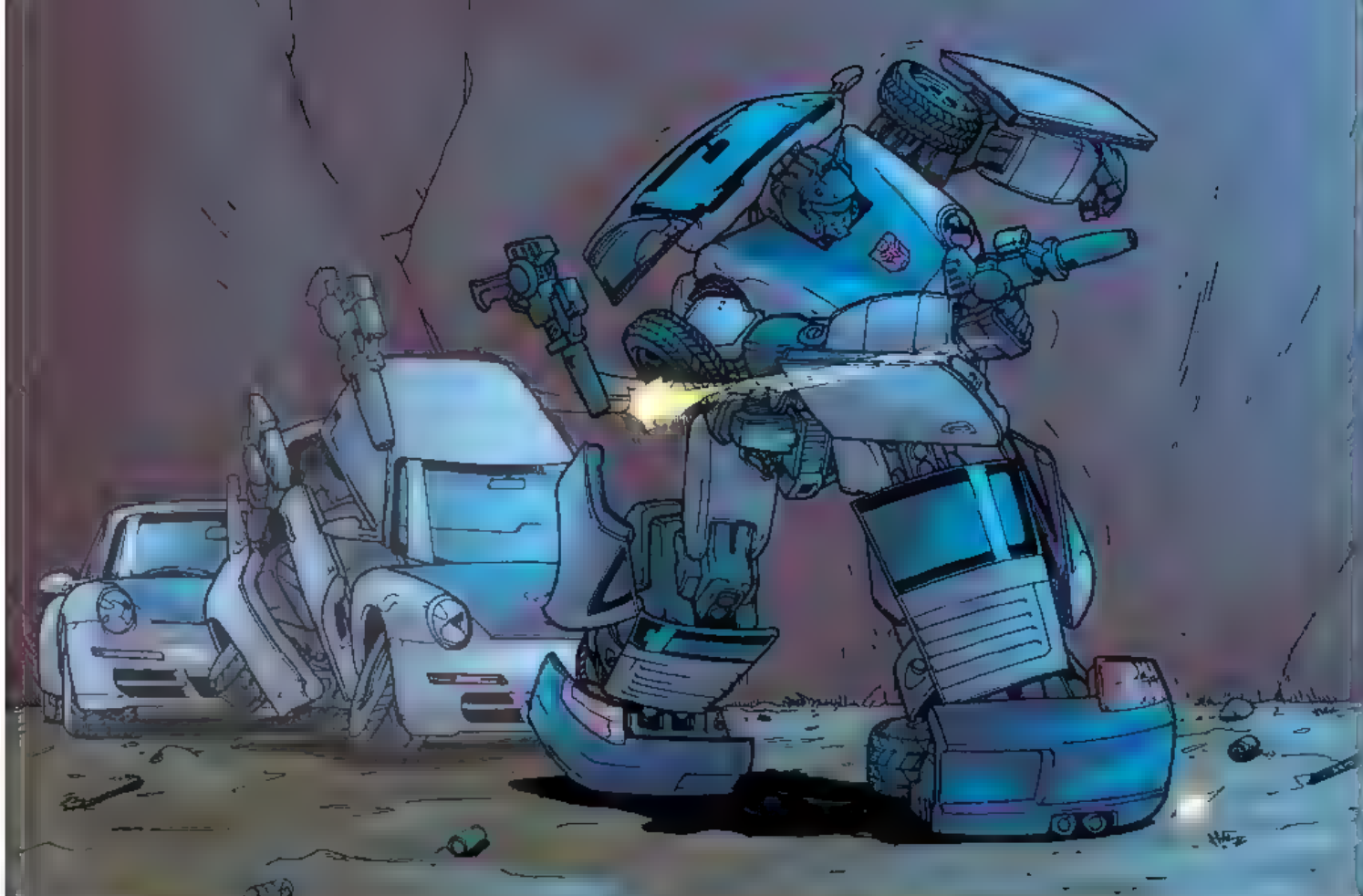
SECURITY?

MINIMAL PERIMETER
FENCE IS ALARMED AND
THERE'S CCTV. I CAN
TAKE OUT BOTH WITH
A LOCALIZED EMP

DO IT, MMAN THERE'S
AN OBSERVATION
BLIND SPOT FORTY
METERS ALONG THE
WEST PERIMETER
I'LL GO IN THERE

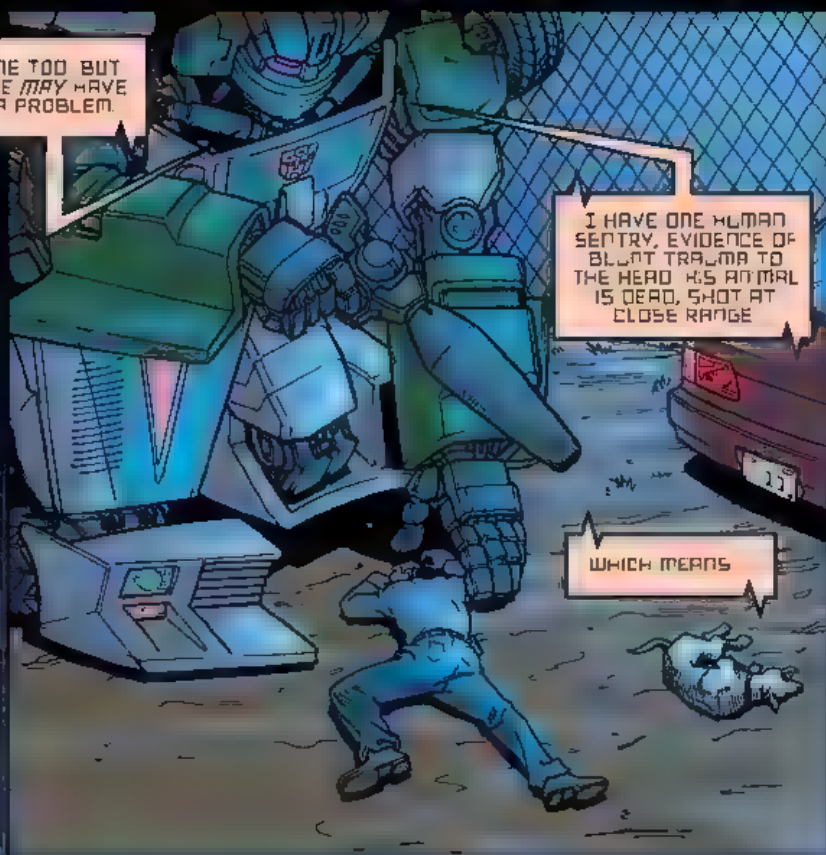
ACKNOWLEDGED
SEE YOU ON
THE INSIDE





I'm in

ME TOO BUT
WE MAY HAVE
A PROBLEM.



I HAVE ONE HUMAN
SENTRY, EVIDENCE OF
BLUNT TRAUMA TO
THE HEAD. HIS ANIMAL
IS DEAD, SHOT AT
CLOSE RANGE

WHICH MEANS





HEH—BIG,
SCARY ROBOTS.
RECKON WE'RE
SUPPOSE TO
FAINT... OR
SOMETHIN'.

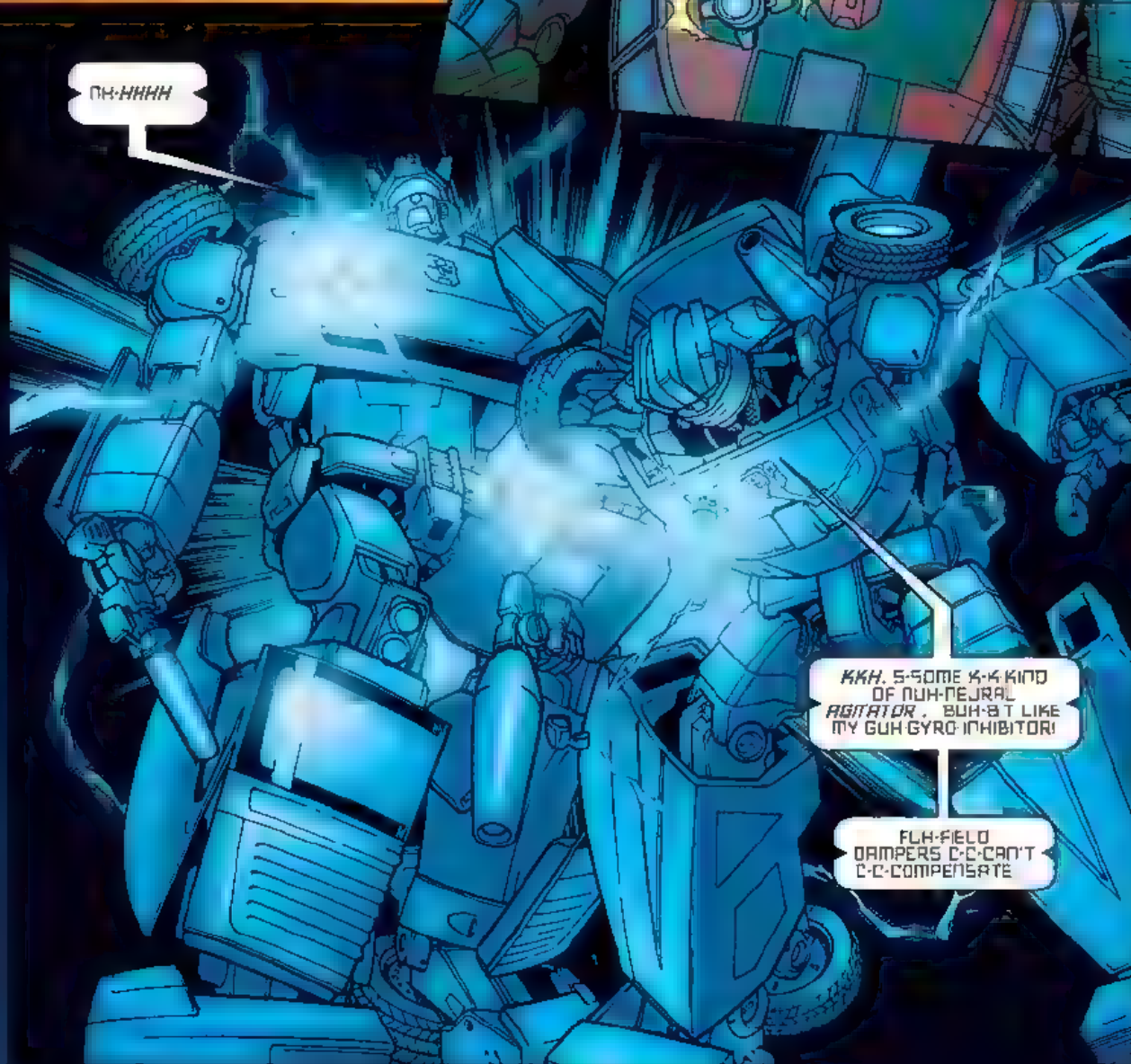
WELL, SEE, THEY
LOOK AT US AND
IMAGINE THEY'RE
INVULNERABLE...

...AND
THEY'RE
NOT!

WHAT

THE—

OH-HHHH



KKH. S-SOME K-K KIND
OF NUH-NEJRAL
AGITATOR. BUH-B T LIKE
MY GUH GYRO INHIBITOR!

FLH-FIELD
DAMPERS C-C-CAN'T
C-C-COMPENSATE



NOW WHILE
THEY'RE ON
ROPES...

...PUT 'EM
DOWN

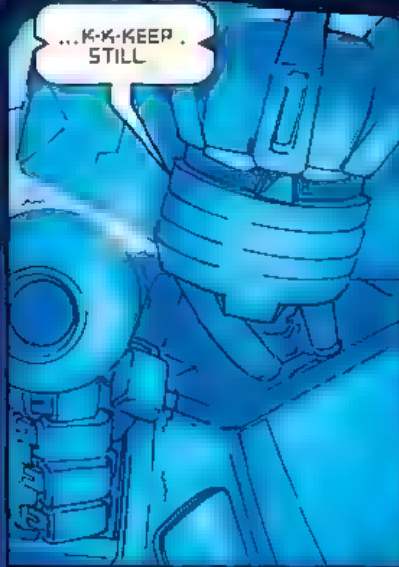


NUH NOTHING'S
WUHHH-WHEELJACK
WHAT



ARE YOU
D-DOING?

JUH JUST.

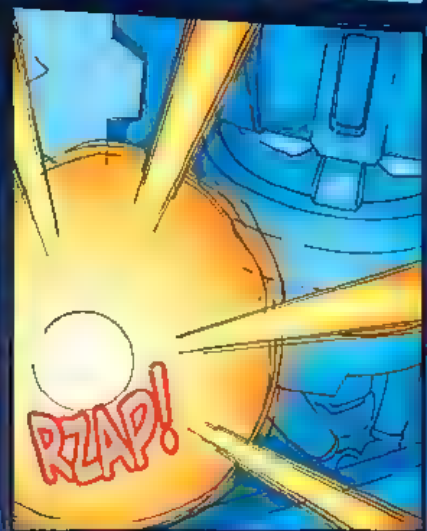


...K-K-KEEP
STILL



K-K-KEEP
STILL?

YUH VE G G-GOT
TO BE K-K-KIDDING





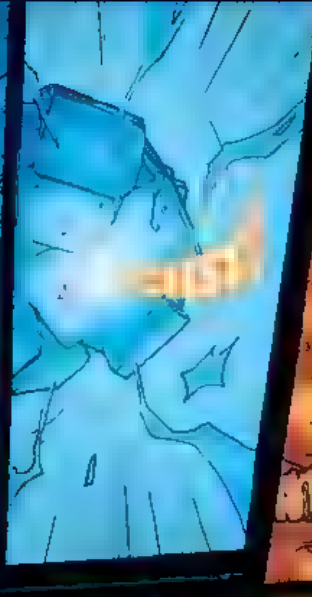
HA! ALRIGHT!
NICE SHOOTIN'
PARDNER

AND NOW...



LET
ME REPRY
THE FAVOR

DEH-QUICKLY...
B-B BEFORE
THEY—



DUCK AND
COVER!



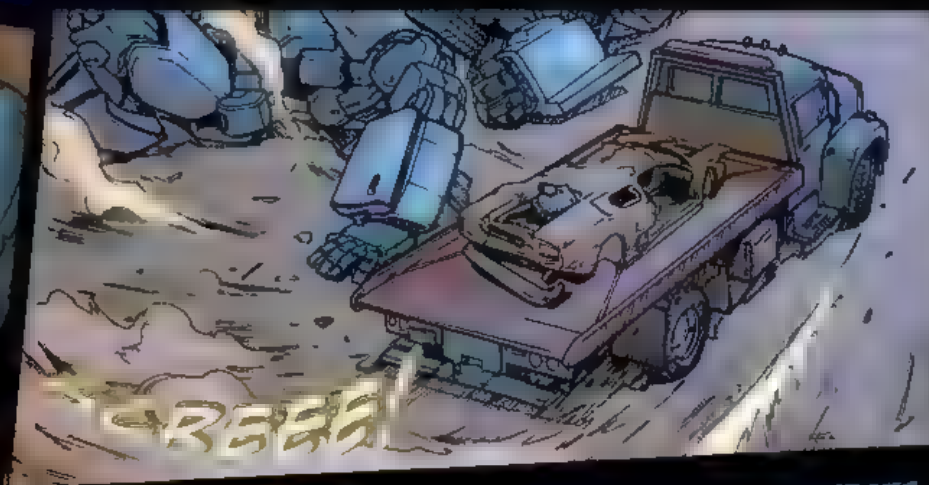
SHOOT!

DHT!

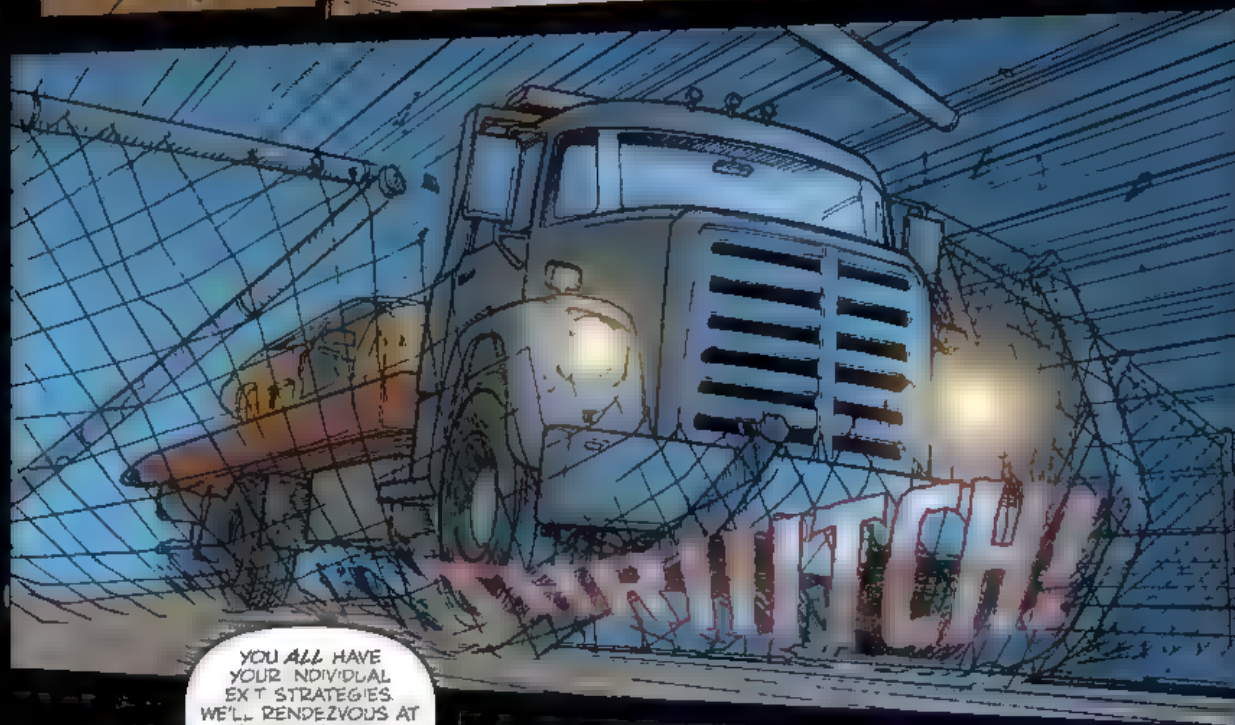
VA-
WHOOOOM!



GO...
GO!



CRASH!



CRASH!

YOU ALL HAVE
YOUR INDIVIDUAL
EXT STRATEGIES
WE'LL RENDEZVOUS AT
THE OKLAHOMA
BOLTHOLE AT 0800
TOMORROW

UNTIL
THEN..



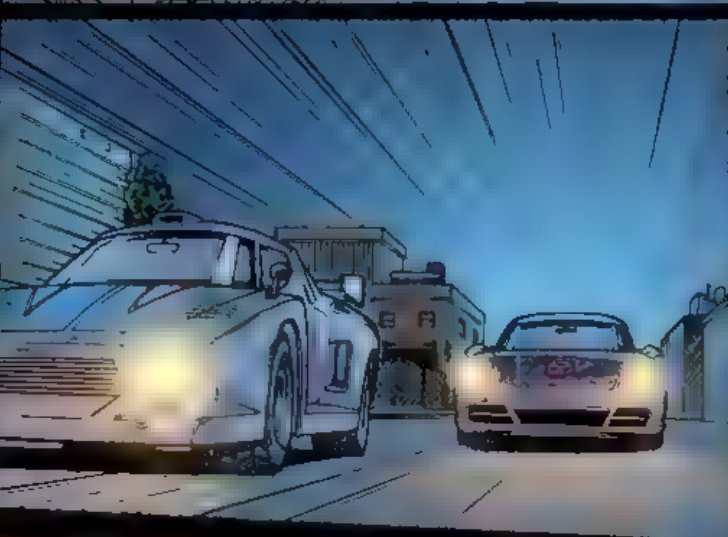
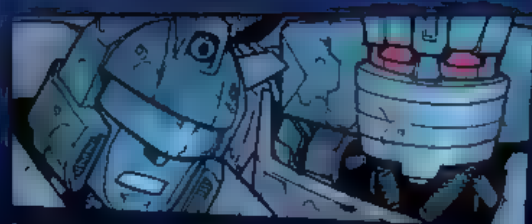
...DISAPPEAR

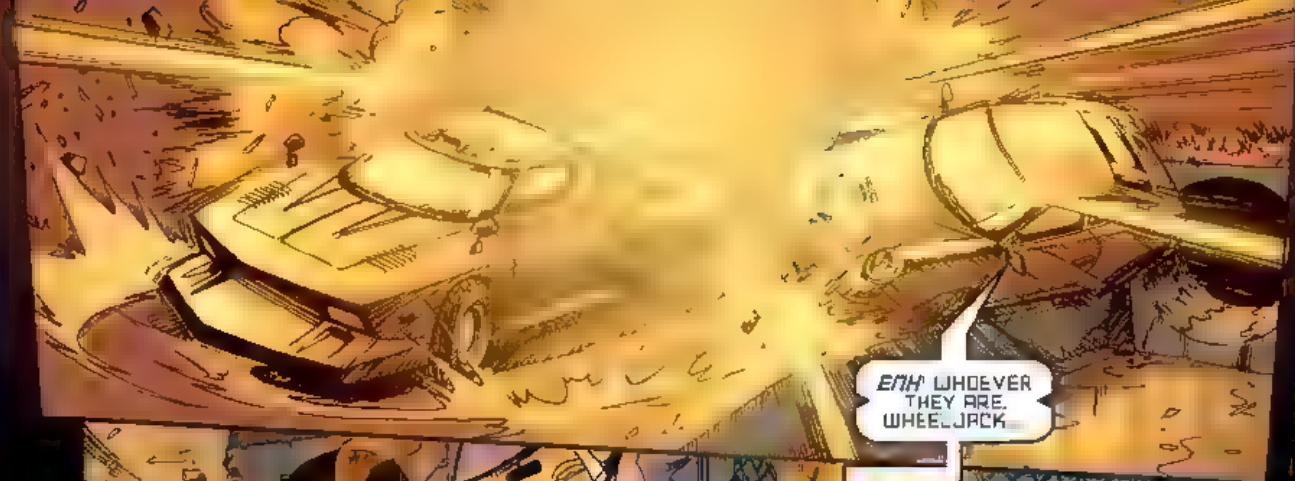


JAZZ?

AAA I'M OKAY
ISH FOR THE SAKE OF
MY DENTED PRIDE, I
REALLY HOPE THOSE
WERENT JUST HUMANS

HOLD IT!



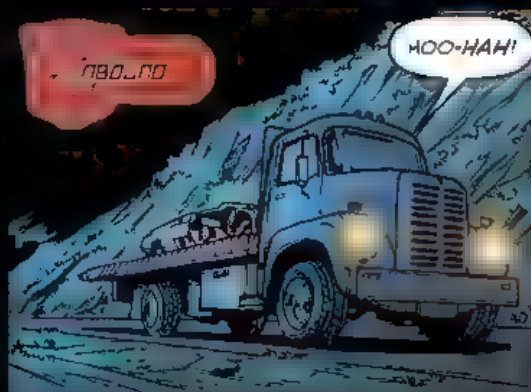


ENH WHOEVER
THEY ARE,
WHEELJACK.



THEY DON'T
BELIEVE IN
LEAVING LOOSE
ENOS!

PRIME—THIS S
WHEELJACK
YOU HAVE ON
HOSTILE

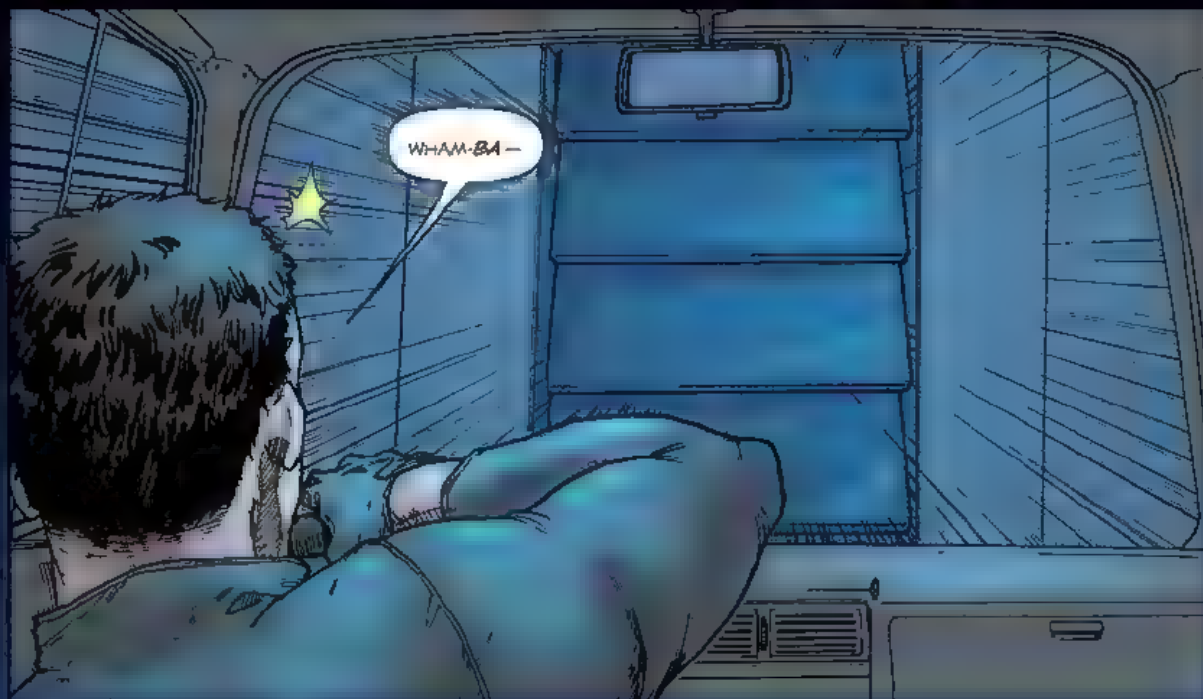


MOO-HAH!

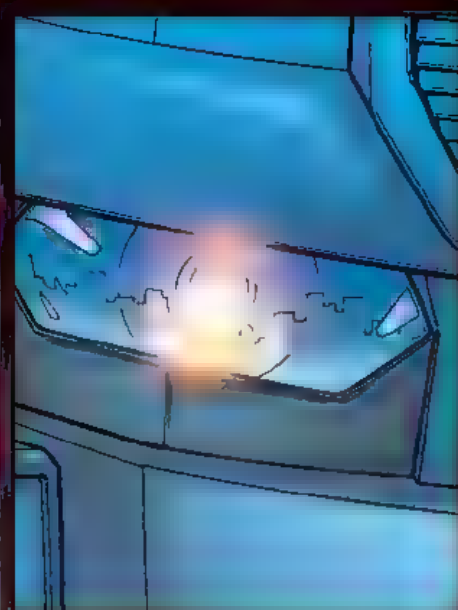
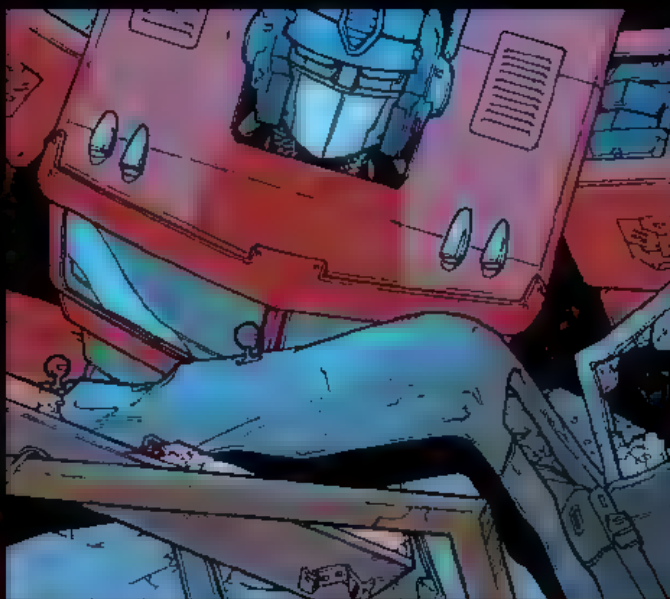
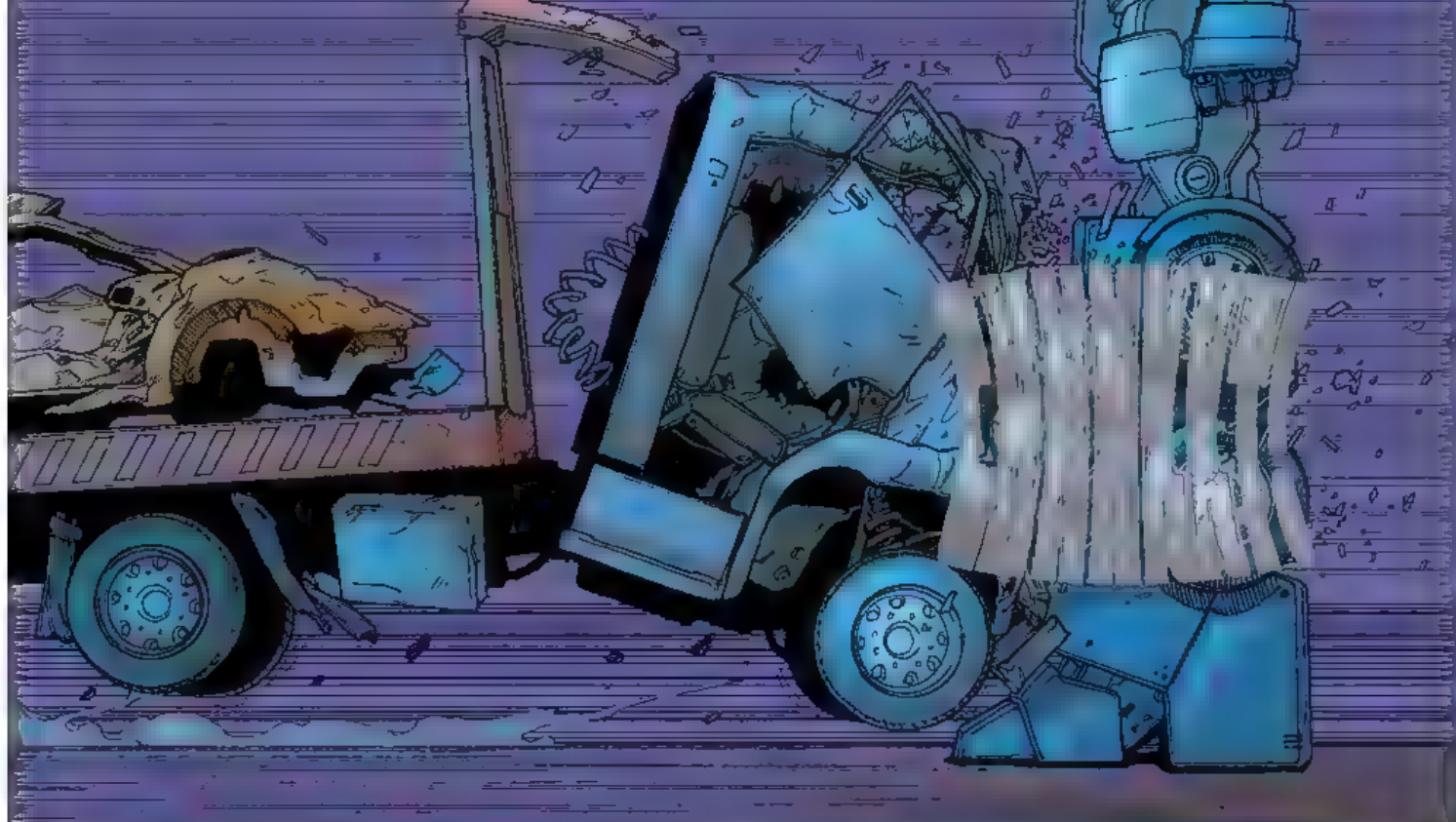


CALL ME
IMMATURE

...BUT I DO
LOVE THE
FIREWORKS!



WHAM-BA—



ARK-19:

INSTANT
DIAGNOSIS

IT'S NOT
SUNSTREAKER

WHAT?

SAME MAKE/MODEL,
SAME STYLING.
SOMEONE'S GONE TO
GREAT LENGTHS TO
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE
SUNSTREAKER, AND DONE
A PASSABLE JOB OF IT,
BUT IN THE END

IT'S JUST
A CAR

THEN, THE
WHOLE THING
IN LEBANON

WAS
STAGED?

BUT... WHY? WHY
BOTHR WITH THIS
ELABORATE
INTERCEPTION AND
COVER-UP?

BECAUSE, PROWL,
THEY KNEW THAT THE
ONLY WAY WE'D STOP
LOOKING FOR
SUNSTREAKER... IS IF
WE THOUGHT HE WAS
ALREADY DEAD

THE REAL
QUESTION
IS... WHO?

STRANGELY, I
ALMOST HOPE IT IS
THE DECEPTICONS.
BECAUSE IF IT'S
HUMANS, IF THEY
ALREADY KNOW THIS
MUCH ABOUT US

...WE'RE
MORE EXPOSED
THAN WE'VE
EVER BEEN!

BIOLOGICAL CONTAINMENT ZONE:

TODAY'S ATTACK
AND THE INEVITABLE
COUNTER-CLAIMS OF
U.S. INVOLVEMENT...

...ARE
SYMPTOMATIC OF
THE REGION'S
VOLATILE MAKE-UP.

VERITY,
JIMMY,

GOOD
NEWS

IRONHIDE?

IT NOW APPEARS THE
LEBANON INTERCEPTION
WAS SOME KIND OF
INTRICATE SLIGHT OF HAND

ALEXANDER HOLT

THERE'S A CHANCE,
HOWEVER FANT

ALEXANDER HOLT

THAT HUNTER'S
STILL ALIVE.

ALEXANDER HOLT
U.S. SENATOR

AND SO, UNLESS
FIRM ACTION IS
TAKEN TO GUARANTEE
THE SECURITY OF U.S.
BUSINESS INTERESTS IN
THE REGION, I PREDICT
A GLOBAL ENERGY
SHORTAGE.

THAT WAS LOUISIANA
SENATOR ALEXANDER
HOLT SPEAKING TODAY
AFTER THE ATTACK BY
UNIDENTIFIED FIGHTER
JETS ON THE EL JIRA
POWER PLANT.

HOLT, AN
OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE
OF MORE DIRECT U.S.
INTERVENTION IN THE
AREA, IS WIDELY TIPPED
BY MANY...

TO BE THE
NEXT REPUBLICAN
CANDIDATE FOR THE
WHITE HOUSE!

JOHN ARTHUR

THESE

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE
IDW
ISSUE #3-A
\$3.99

THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION



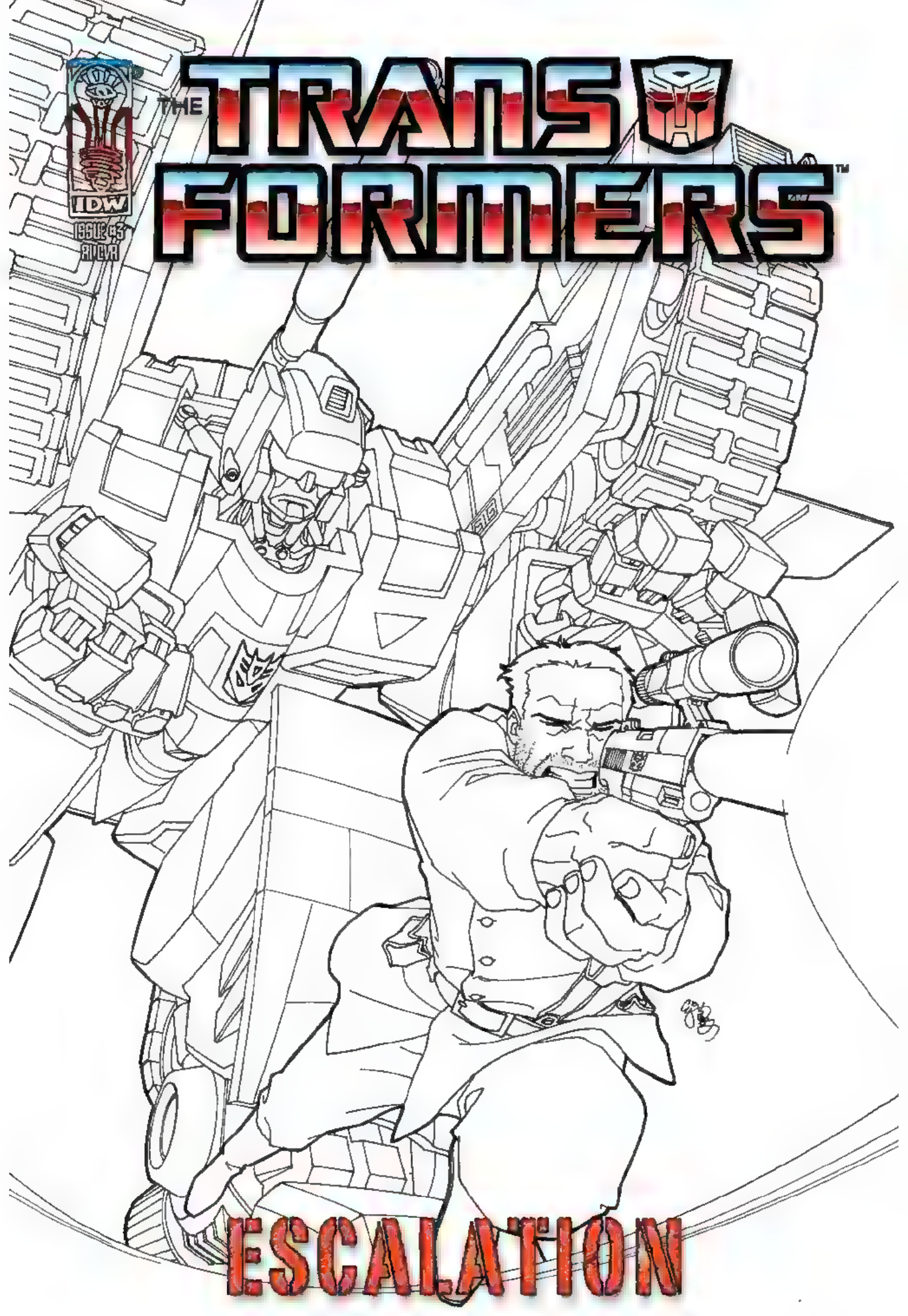
THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION

IDW
ISSUE 43
RIVERA

THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION



THE TRANSFORMERS™ ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY **SIMON FURMAN**

ART BY **E.J. SU**

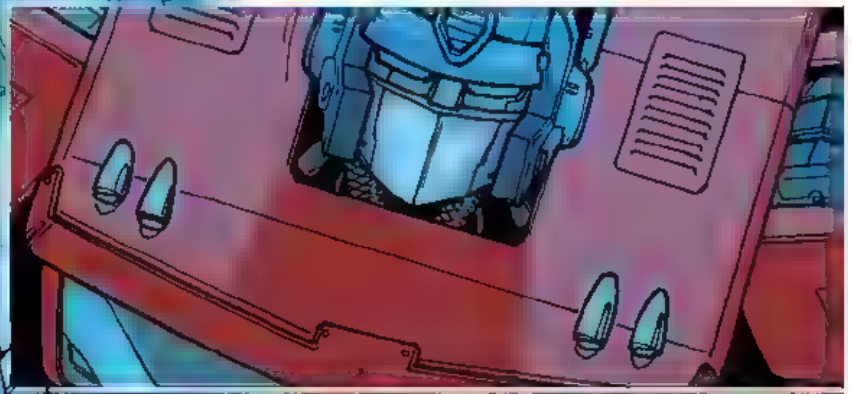
COLORS BY **ZAC ATKINSON**

LETTERS BY **NEIL UYETAKE**

EDITS BY **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY **E.J. SU**

VARIANT COVER BY **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**



ISSUE NUMBER THREE

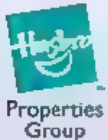
ESCALATION

As the AUTOBOTS begin to probe the mysterious abduction (and fate) of SLINGSTREAKER and his passenger Hunter O'Nion, MEGATRON gets hands-on with the escalating DECEPTICON infiltration strategy on Earth. Having upgraded to an immensely powerful new Earth form, MEGATRON sets his sights on the breakaway soviet state of Brasnya and one of the many facsimile (artificial) humans carefully integrated into that particular hot spot. Things... are about to go ballistic!

PHASE TWO CONTINUES...



licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Amie Lozanski, and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

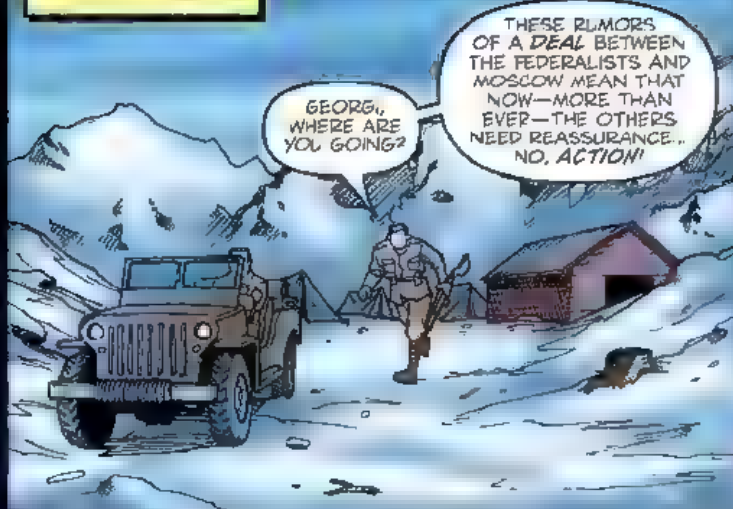
To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

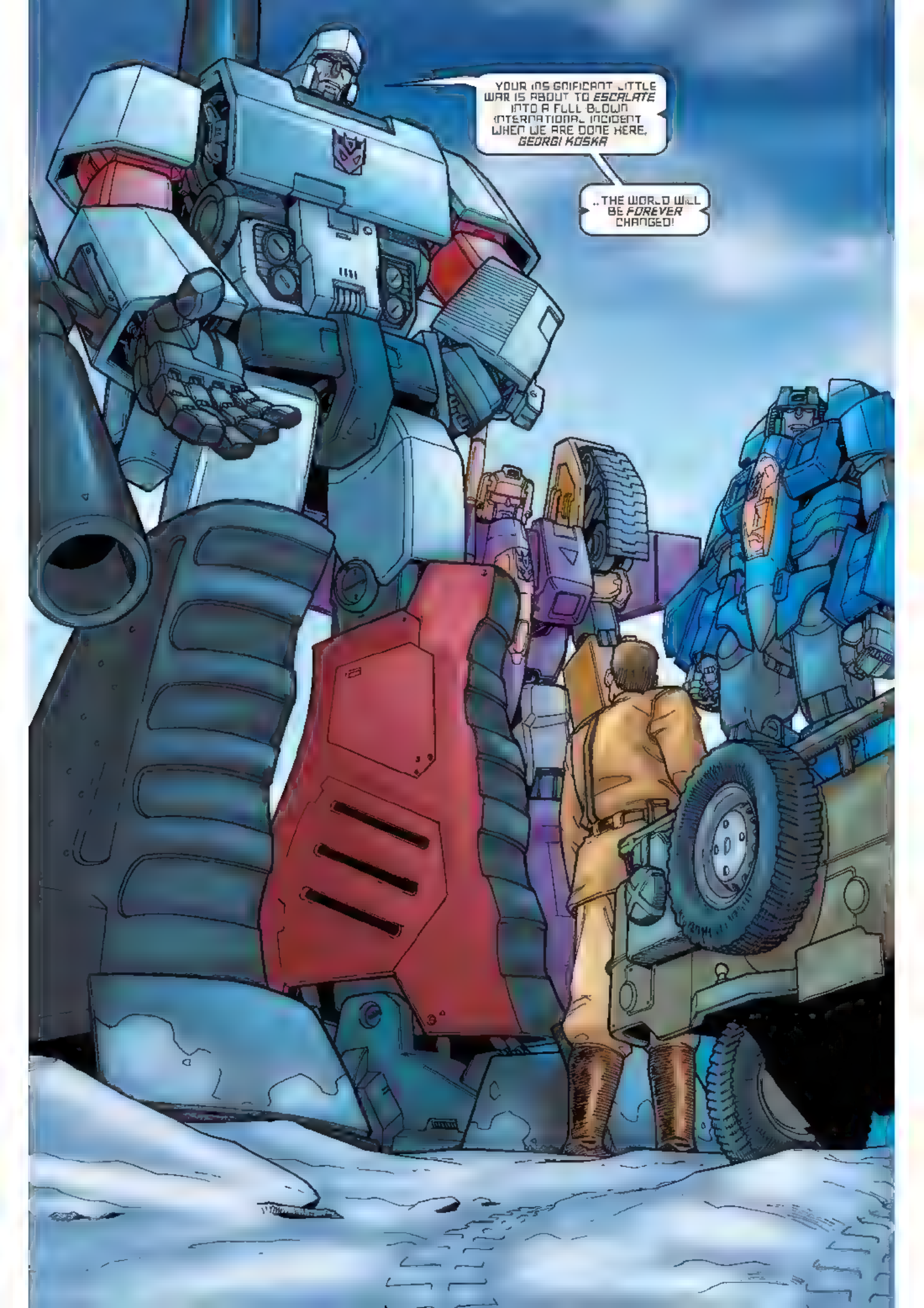
WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

THE TRANSFORMERS ESCALATION #3 JANUARY 2007 FIRST PRINTING IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

IDW Publishing is:
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robbie Robb, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Aionzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Privman, Business Development

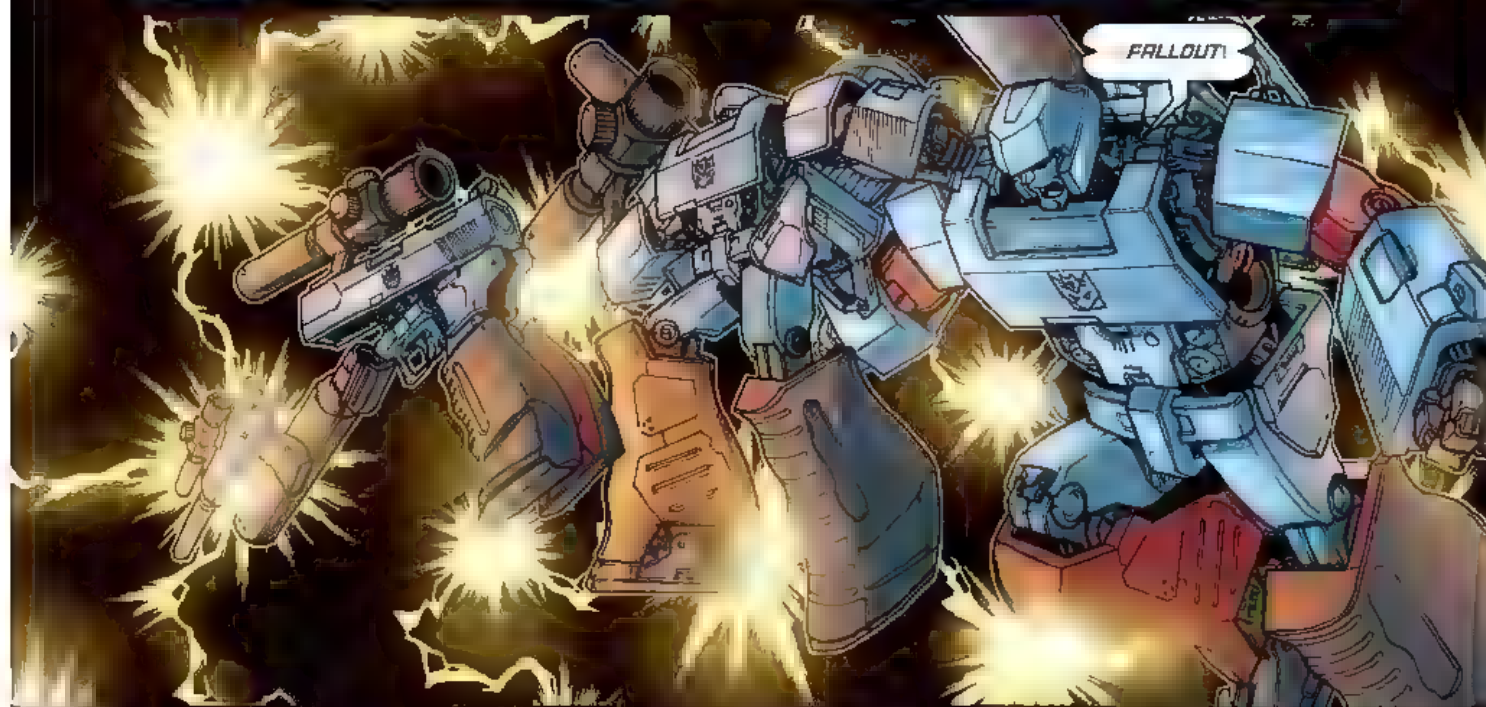
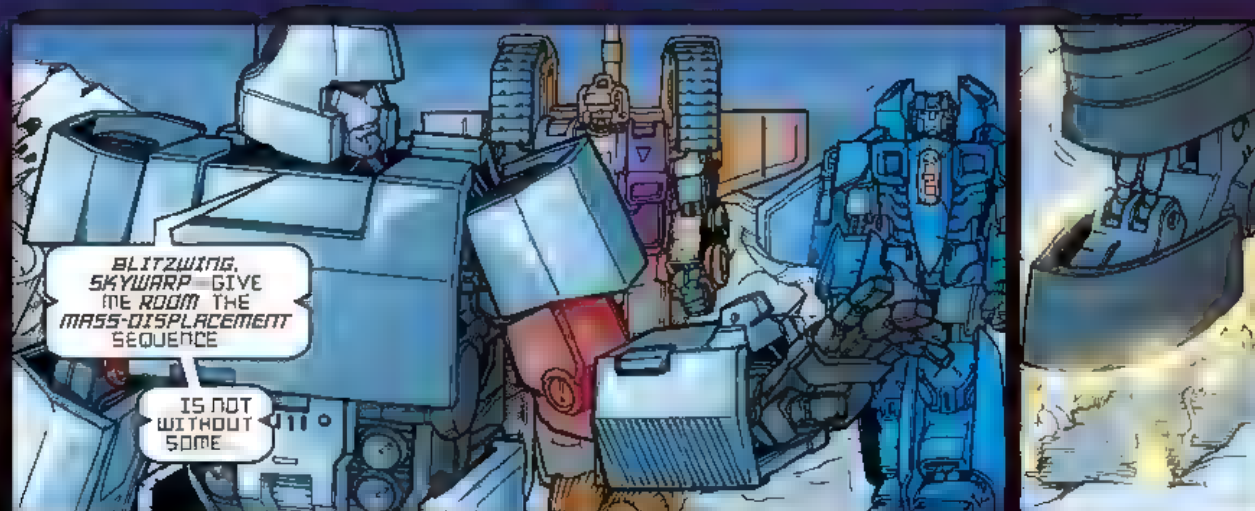
BREAKAWAY SOVIET
STATE OF BRAGNYA

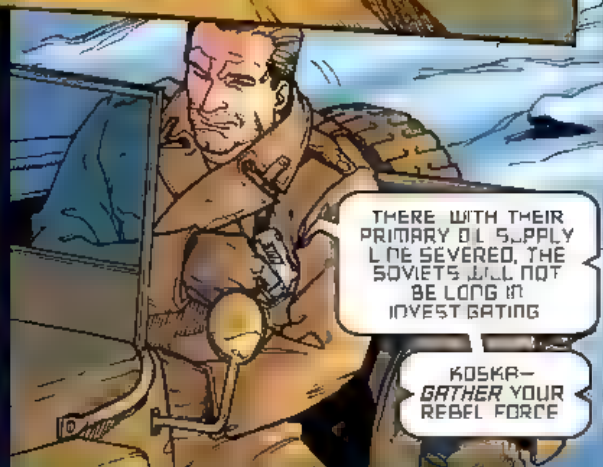




YOUR INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE
WAR IS ABOUT TO *ESCALATE*
INTO A FULL BLOWN
INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT
WHEN WE ARE DONE HERE,
GEORGI KOSKA

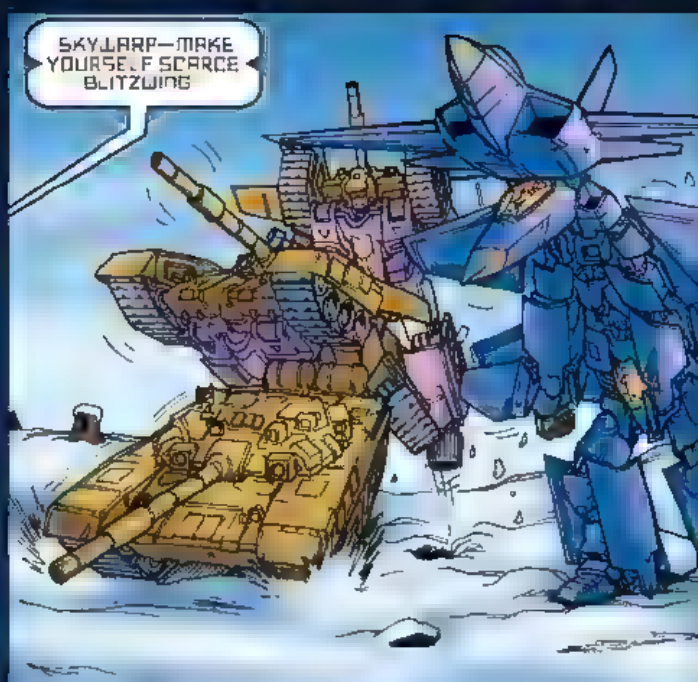
..THE WORLD WILL
BE *FOREVER*
CHANGED!





THERE WITH THEIR
PRIMARY OIL SUPPLY
LINE SEVERED, THE
SOVIETS WILL NOT
BE LONG IN
INVESTIGATING

KOSKA—
GATHER YOUR
REBEL FORCE



SKYLARK—MAKE
YOURSELF SCARCE
BLITZWING



ENGAGE
CHAMELEON-MESH

ARK-19 (LAKE MICHIGAN):

REINFORCEMENTS?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
SLARE, THE STAKES ARE
HIGHER, THE OPPOSITION
A LOT TOUGHER, BUT
WITH YOU HERE, WE CAN
HANDLE THIS

I DISAGREE

THIS IS NOT A REFLECTION
ON YOUR COMMAND.
PROWL EARTH WAS SIMPLY
GRADUATED FROM
PERIPHERAL TO *PIVOTAL*.
ONE FALSE MOVE FROM
HEREON IN

AND WE MIGHT
ALL PAY THE
PRICE!

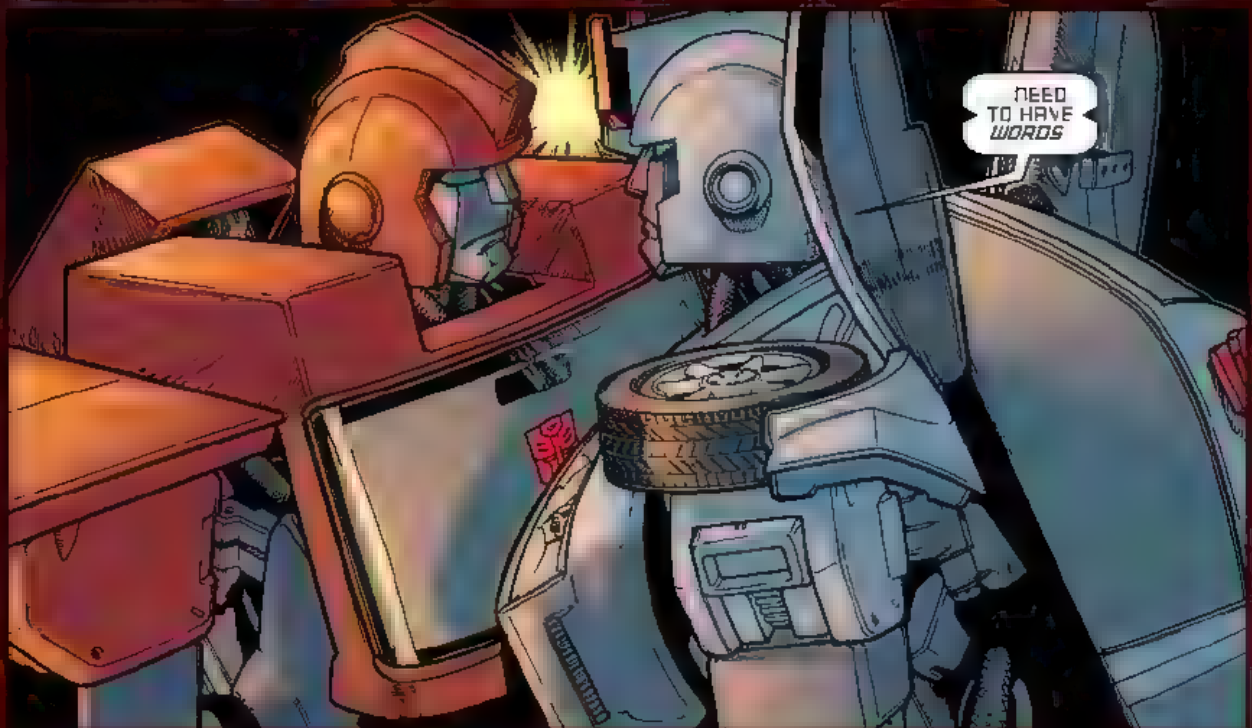
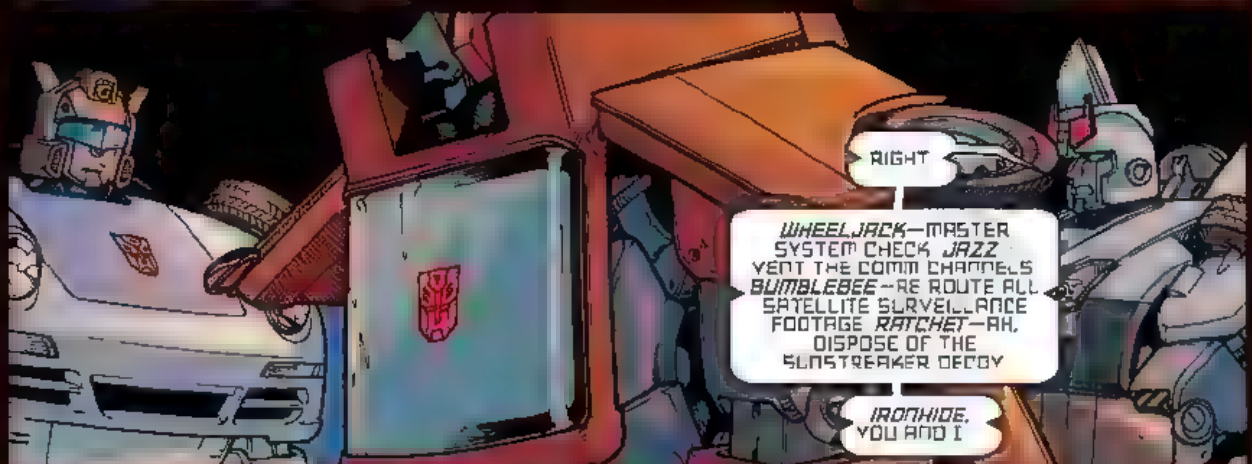
BUT

IT'S *ALREADY* DONE. WITH
MEGATRON ACTIVE ON
EARTH AND *SUNSTREAKER*
MIA, I HAD NO CHOICE
BUT TO PULL RESOURCES
FROM ELSEWHERE

I DO *NOT* DO
SO LIGHTLY

OF COURSE
FORGIVE ME

PRIME - WHILE
WE'RE ON THE
SUBJECT OF
RESOURCE
ALLOCATION



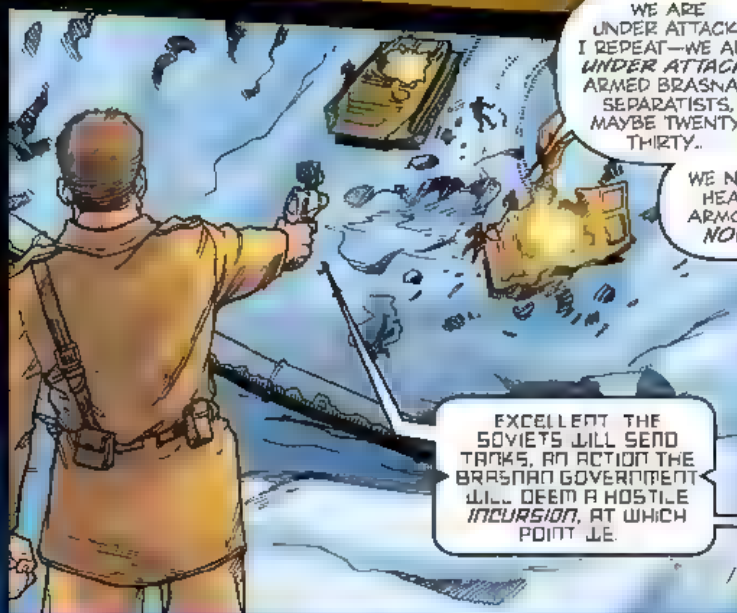




now



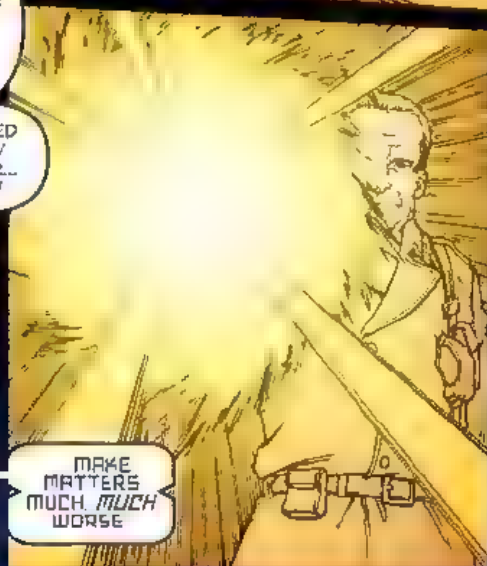
HURT THEM.



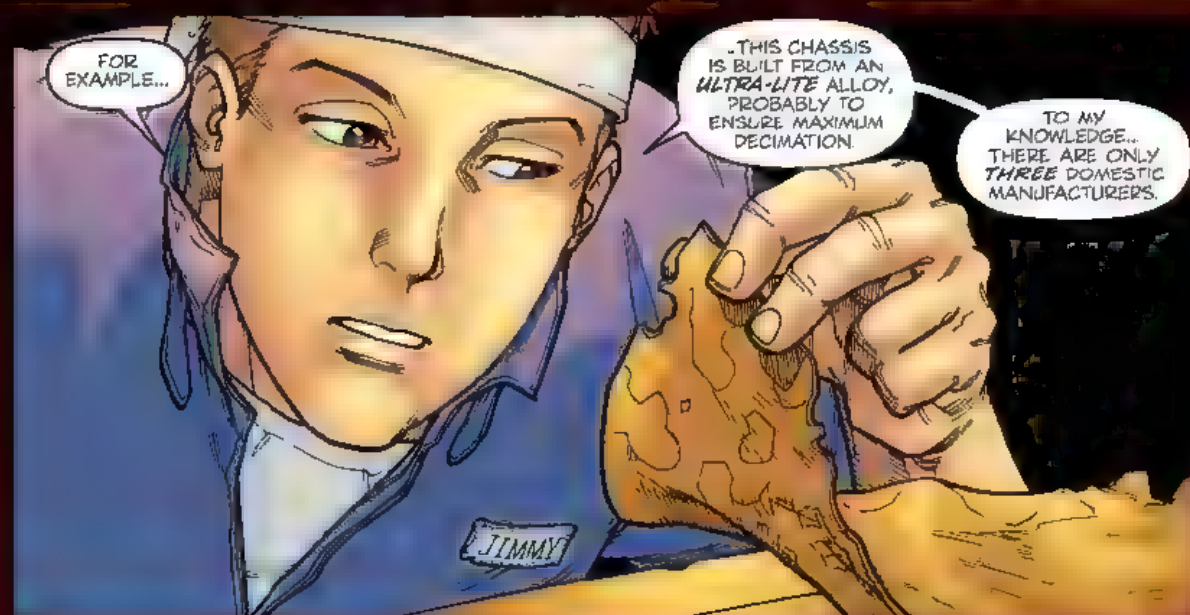
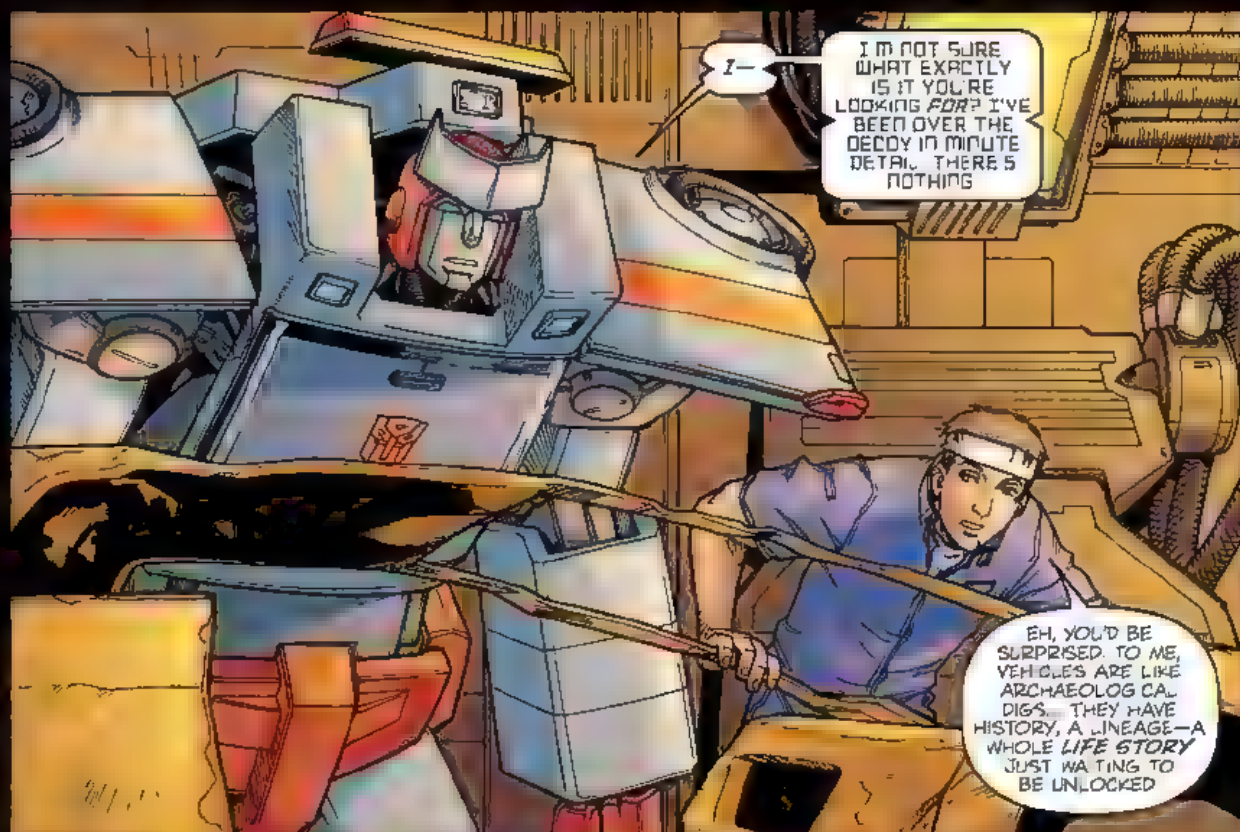
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! I REPEAT—WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! ARMED BRASNAH SEPARATISTS, MAYBE TWENTY, THIRTY..

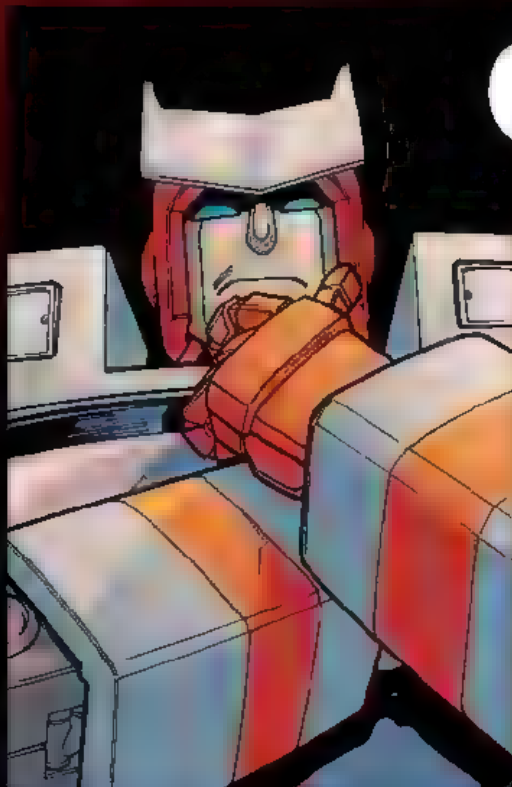
WE NEED HEAVY ARMOR... NOW!

EXCELLENT THE SOVIETS WILL SEND TANKS, AN ACTION THE BRASNAH GOVERNMENT WILL DEEM A HOSTILE INCURSION, AT WHICH POINT WE

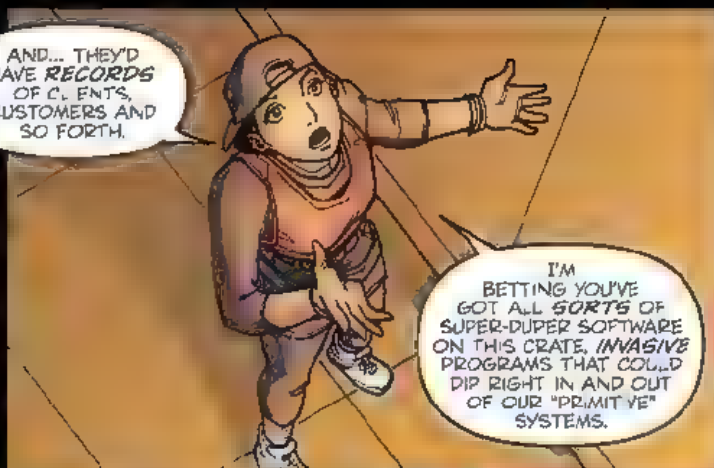


MAKE MATTERS MUCH, MUCH WORSE

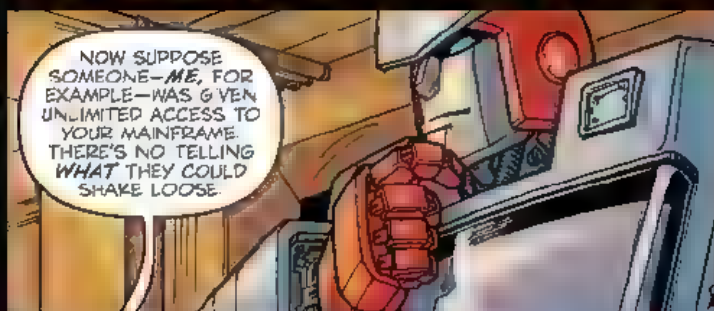




AND... THEY'D HAVE RECORDS OF CLIENTS, CUSTOMERS AND SO FORTH.



I'M BETTING YOU'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF SUPER-DUPER SOFTWARE ON THIS CRATE, INVASIVE PROGRAMS THAT COULD DIP RIGHT IN AND OUT OF OUR "PRIMITIVE" SYSTEMS.



NOW SUPPOSE SOMEONE—ME, FOR EXAMPLE—WAS GIVEN UNLIMITED ACCESS TO YOUR MAINFRAME. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY COULD SHAKE LOOSE.



I SHOULD TAKE THIS TO PROWL BUT, LET'S FACE IT, HE'D PROBABLY EITHER DISMISS IT OR SIT ON IT.

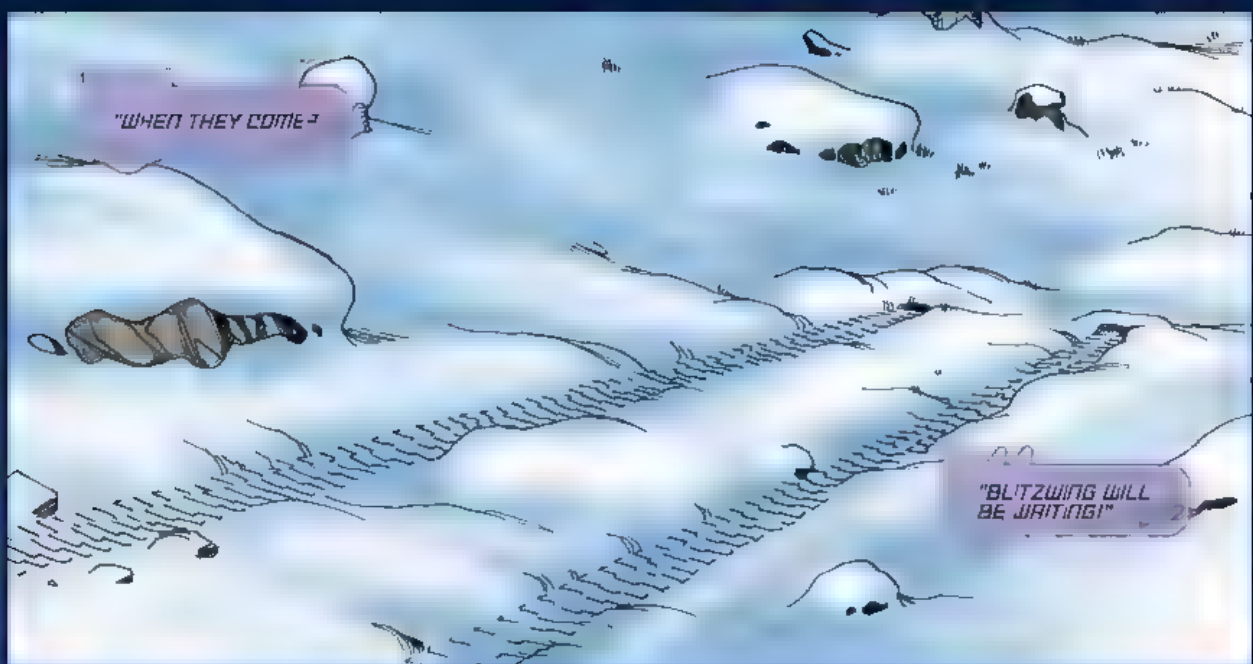
QUESTION IS, AFTER MY RECENT CLUTCH OF MISDEEDS, DO I REALLY WANT TO STICK MY NECK OUT AGAIN?

HM.



I GUESS SO

dit

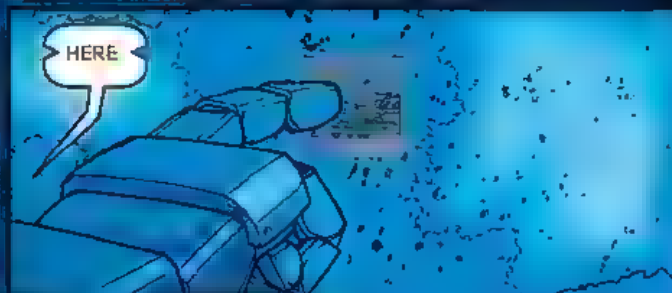




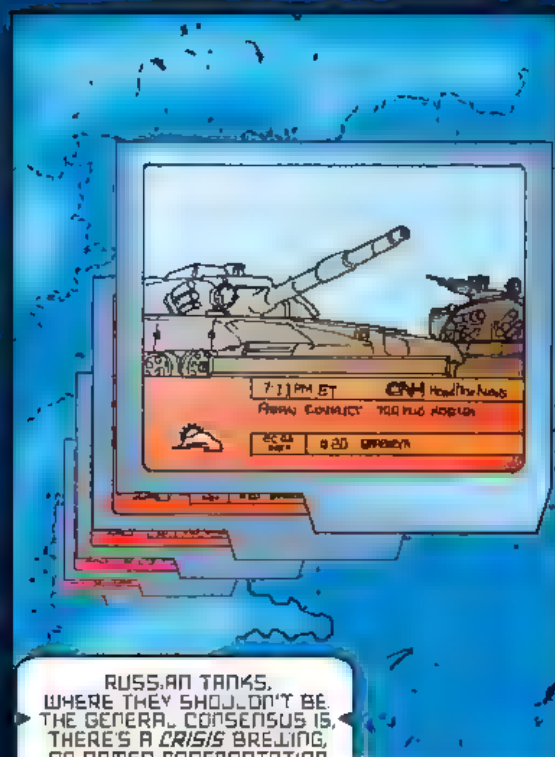
ARK-19

WE'VE GOT SOMETHING

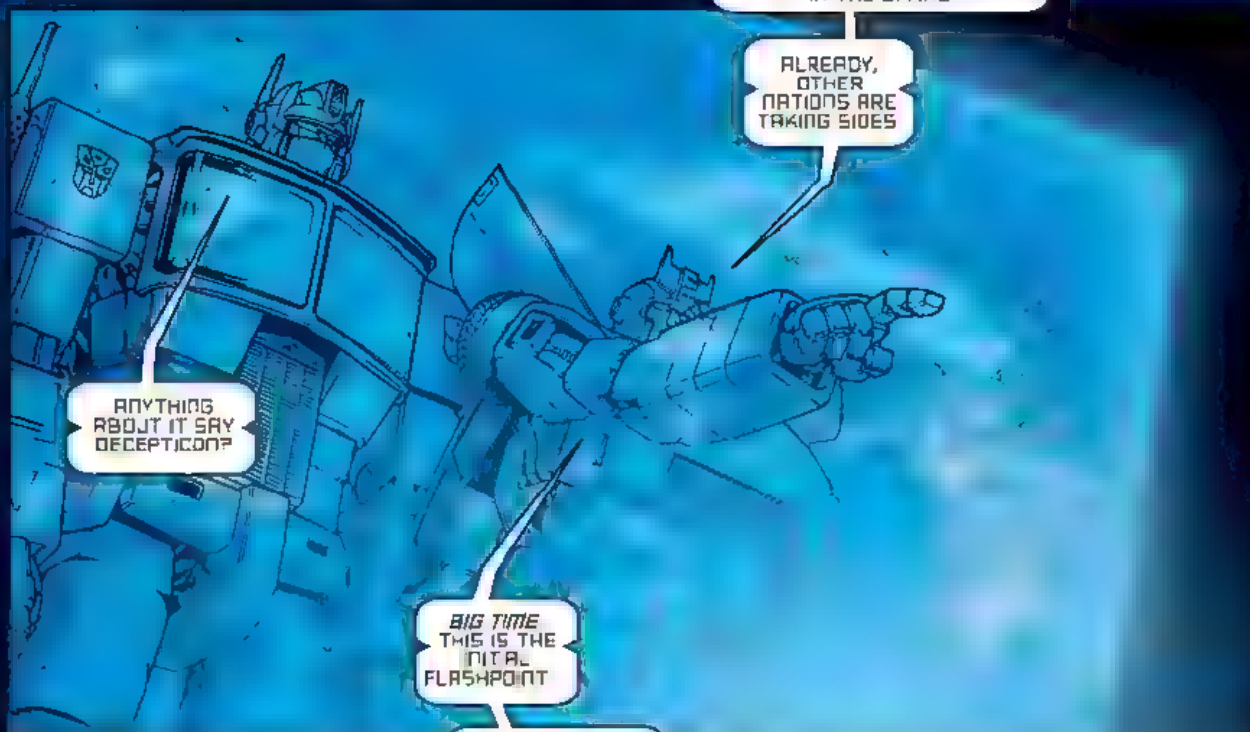
WHERE?



HERE



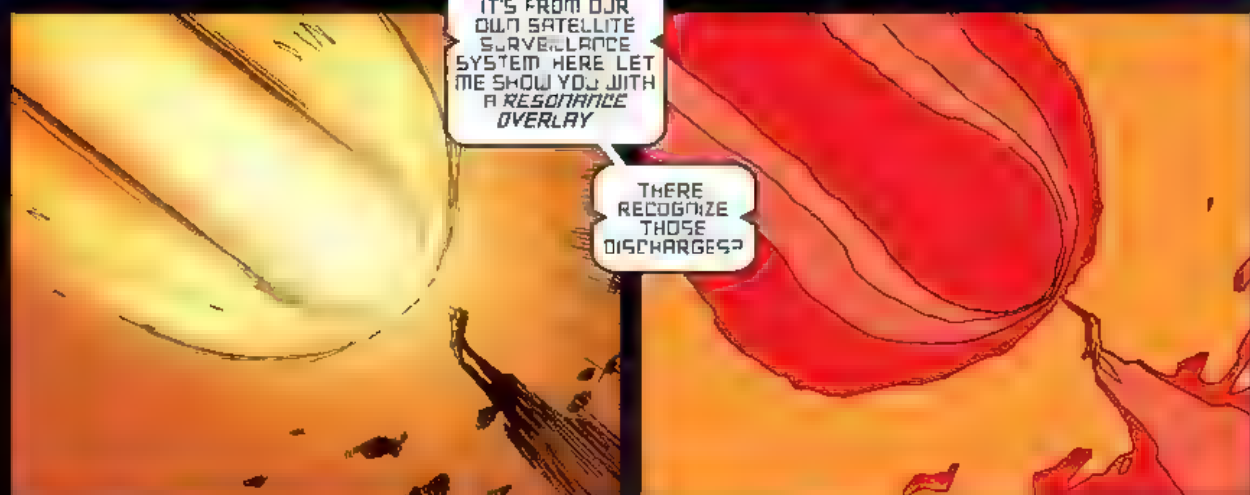
RUSSIAN TANKS, WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T BE. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS, THERE'S A *CRISIS* BREWING, AN ARMED CONFRONTATION IN THE OFFING



ANYTHING ABOUT IT SAY DECEPTICON?

ALREADY, OTHER NATIONS ARE TAKING SIDES

BIG TIME THIS IS THE INITIAL FLASHPOINT



IT'S FROM OUR OWN SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. HERE LET ME SHOW YOU WITH A RESONANCE OVERLAY

THERE RECOGNIZE THOSE DISCHARGES?

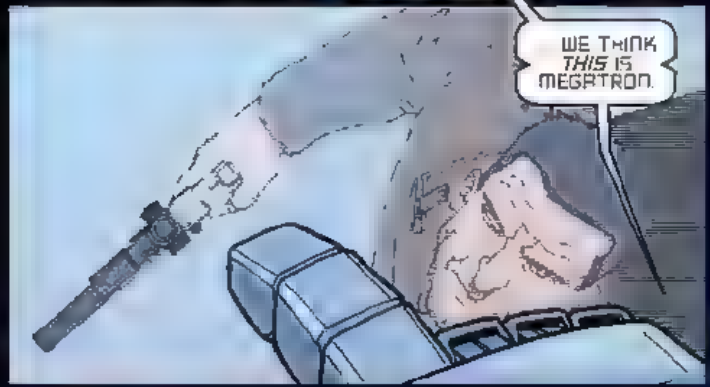


MEGATRON.

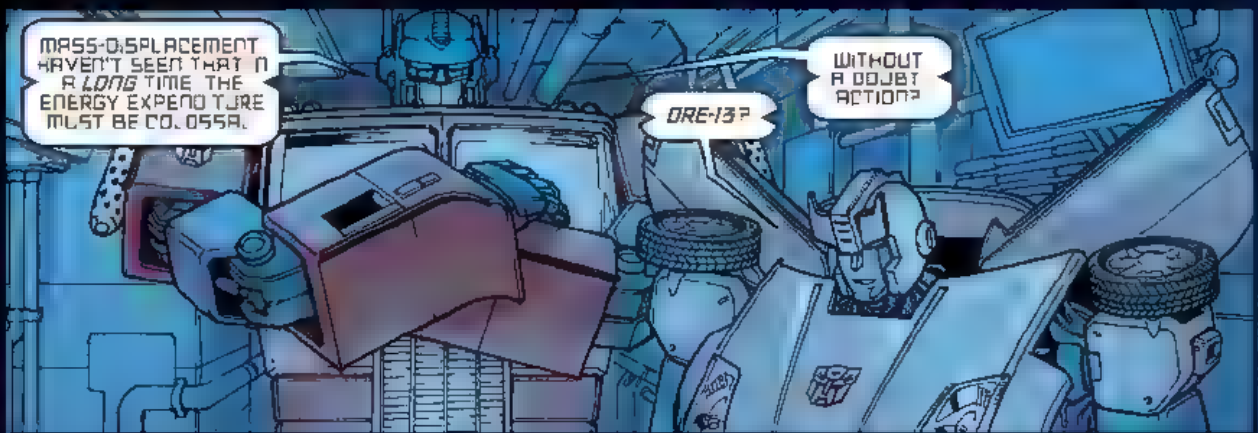


WE ISOLATED *THIS* IMAGE ACCORDING TO THE INTERNET. HIS NAME IS GEORGI KOSKA, HEAD OF A MILITARISTIC SPLINTER FACTION. WE FIGURE HIM FOR THE FACSIMILE.

AND, CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS



WE THINK *THIS* IS MEGATRON.



MASS-DISPLACEMENT HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN A LONG TIME. THE ENERGY EXPENDITURE MUST BE CO.055A.

DRE-13?

WITHOUT A DOUBT ACTION?



STAMP OUT THE FLAMES. KEEP MEGATRON'S ATTENTION ON US AND PRESERVE/CONTAIN THE FACSIMILE... AT ANY COST.

AGREED



READY YOUR STRIKE TEAM

BRASNYA:

THAT'S CLOSE
ENOUGH. HOLD
POSITION
HERE!

NOW
WHAT?

YOU'RE
NEW, AREN'T
YOU, *BRESKI*?
OTHERWISE, YOU'D
KNOW WHAT
NOW.

WE HOLD
POSITION, THE
SOVIETS HOLD
POSITION
EVENTUALLY...

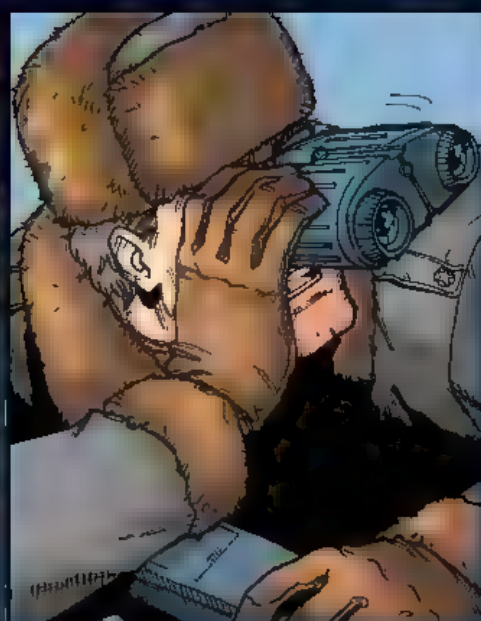
...THE
POLITICIANS
AGREE TO SOME
KIND OF MUTUALLY
FACE-SAVING
COMPROMISE AND
WE ALL GO
HOME.

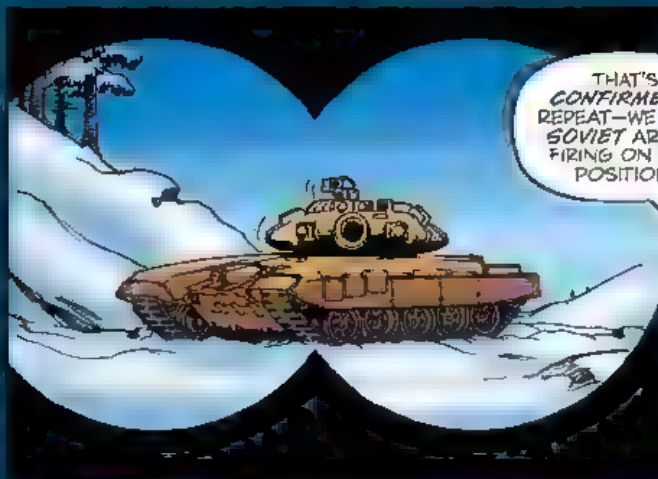
THING IS,
CAPTAIN, I'VE BEEN
AROUND THE CAPITAL
LONG ENOUGH TO
READ THE SIGNS, AND
RIGHT NOW NONE OF
THEM ARE GOOD.

TRUST
ME...

...I'VE BEEN A
COMMISSIONED
OFFICER FOR
SIXTEEN YEARS
AND HAVEN'T YET
FIRED A SHOT
IN ANG—

—AAH!





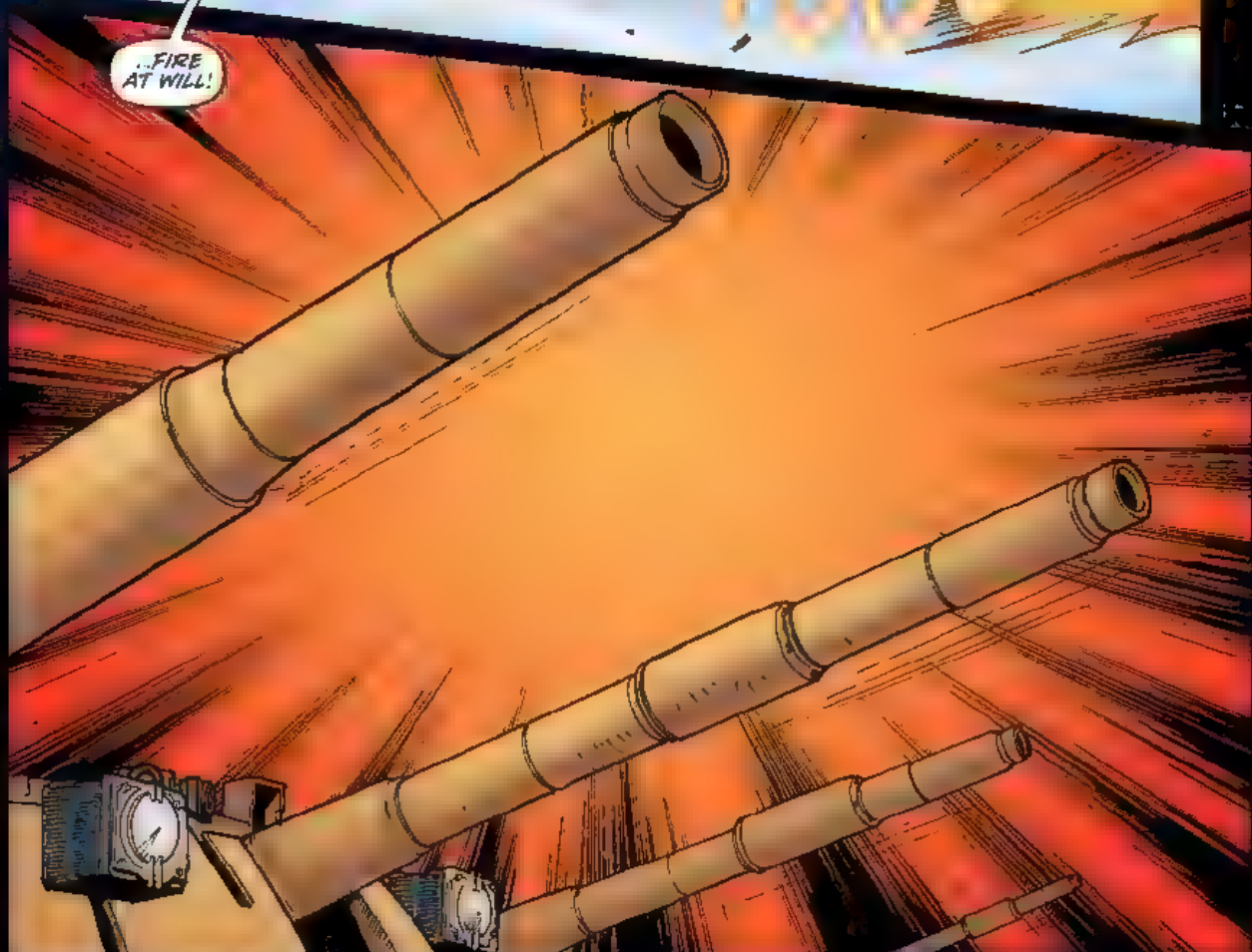
THAT'S
CONFIRMED. I
REPEAT—WE HAVE
SOVIET ARMOR
FIRING ON OUR
POSITION.

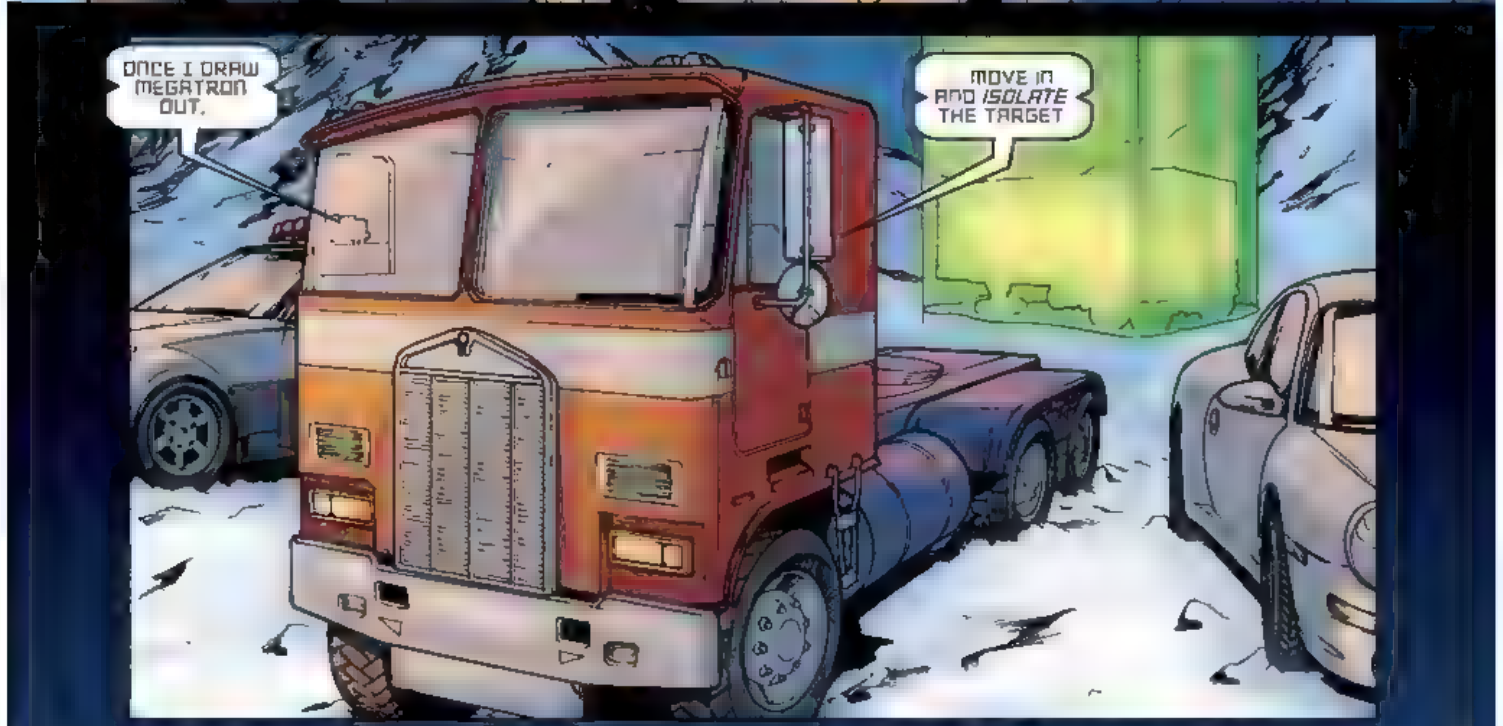
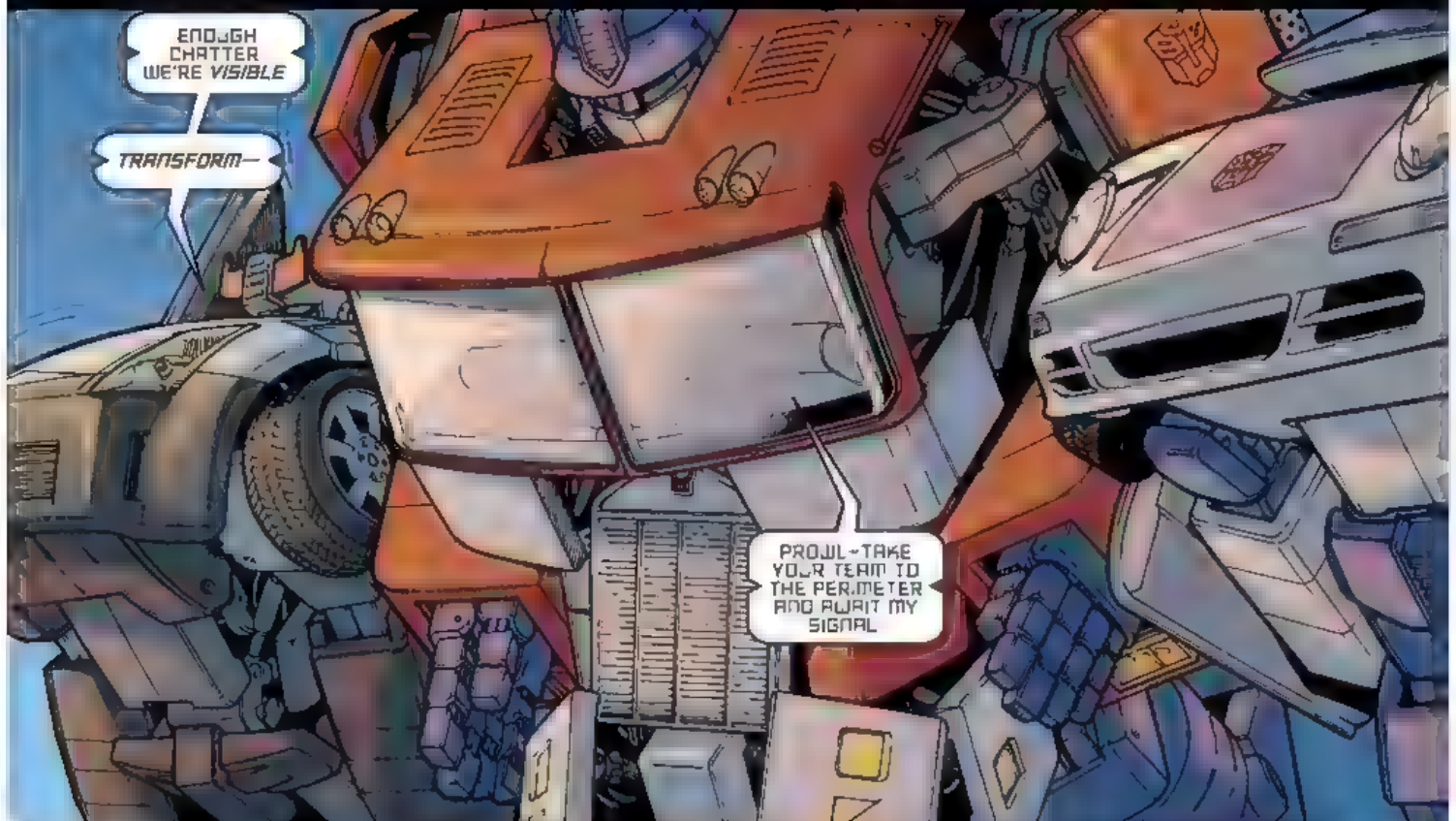
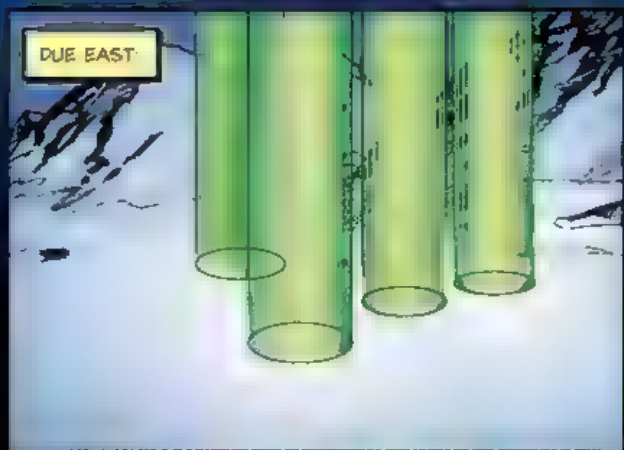


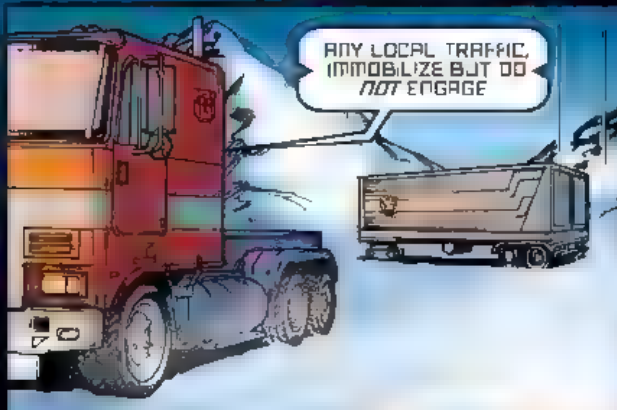
SIR, I NEED A
DIRECT ORDER
HERE!

UNDERSTOOD.
ALL UNITS..

...FIRE
AT WILL!



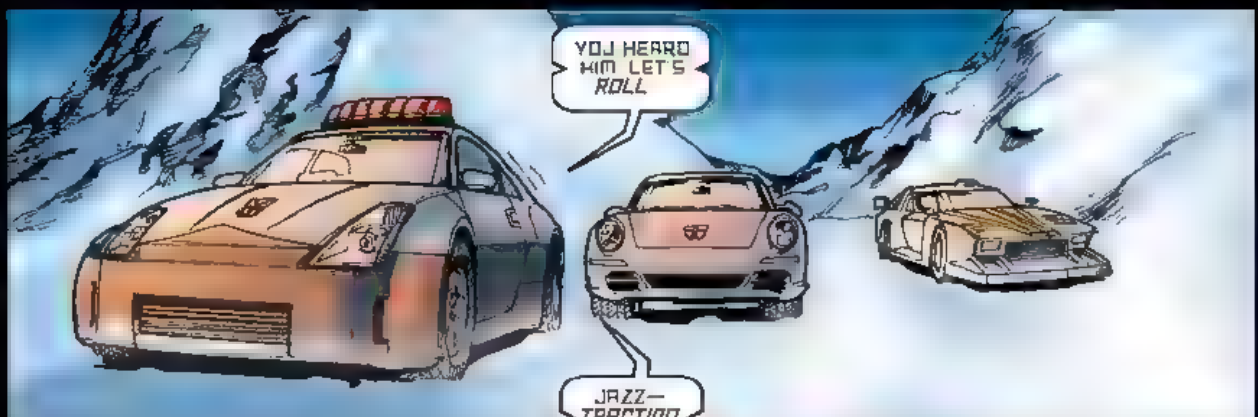




ANY LOCAL TRAFFIC,
IMMOBILIZE BUT DO
NOT ENGAGE

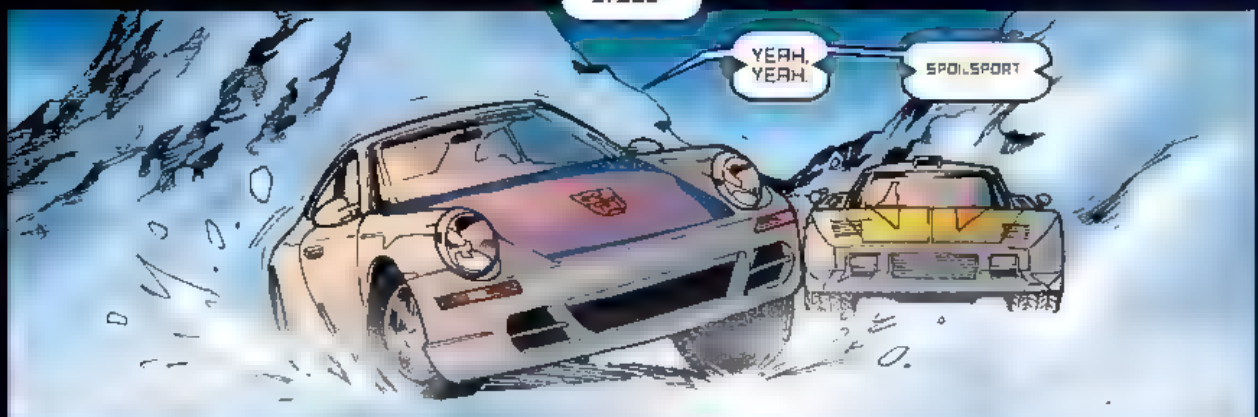


WE DON'T
WANT TO MAKE
MATTERS
WORSE



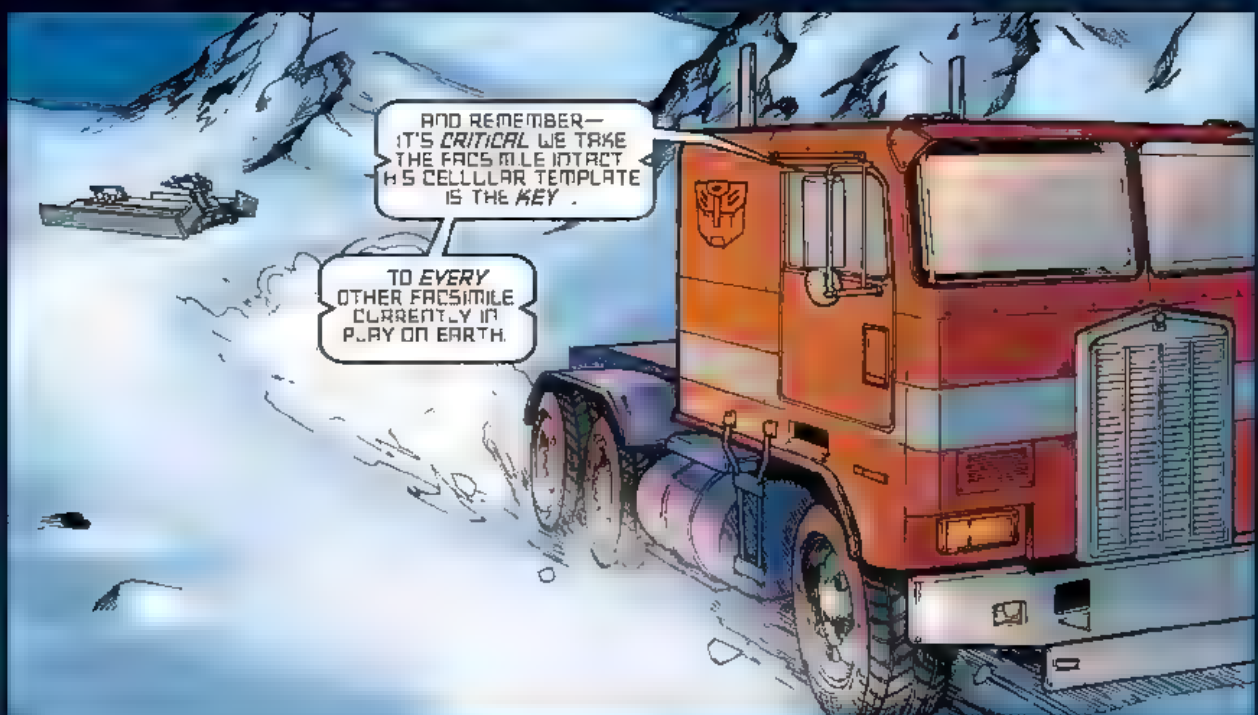
YOU HEARD
HIM LET'S
ROLL

JAZZ—
TRACTION
STUDS



YEAH,
YEAH.

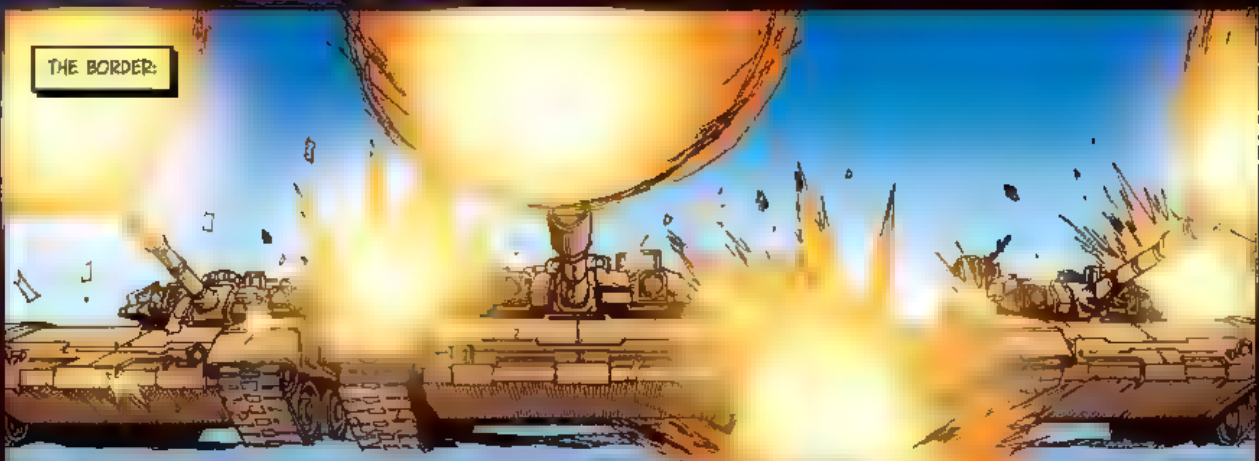
SPOILSPORT



AND REMEMBER—
IT'S CRITICAL WE TAKE
THE FACSIMILE INTO
HIS CELLULAR TEMPLATE
IS THE KEY .

TO EVERY
OTHER FACSIMILE
CURRENTLY IN
PLAY ON EARTH.

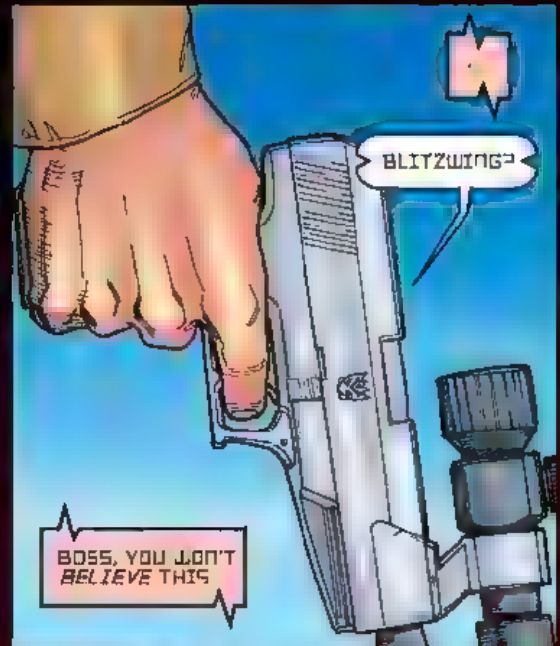
THE BORDER:



NOW
WHAT?

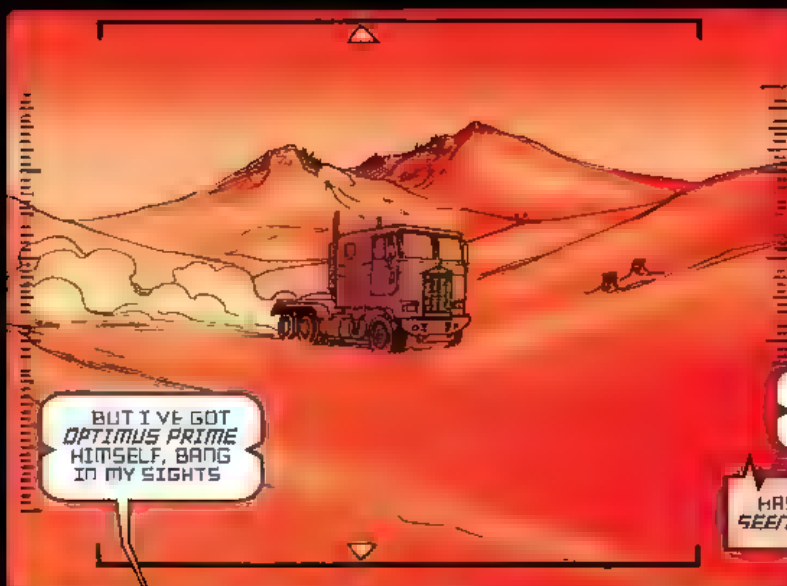
WE WITHDRAW
YOU—HAVING
FULFILLED YOUR
ASSIGNED
ROLE—WILL BE
DECOMMISSIONED.

BLITZWING.

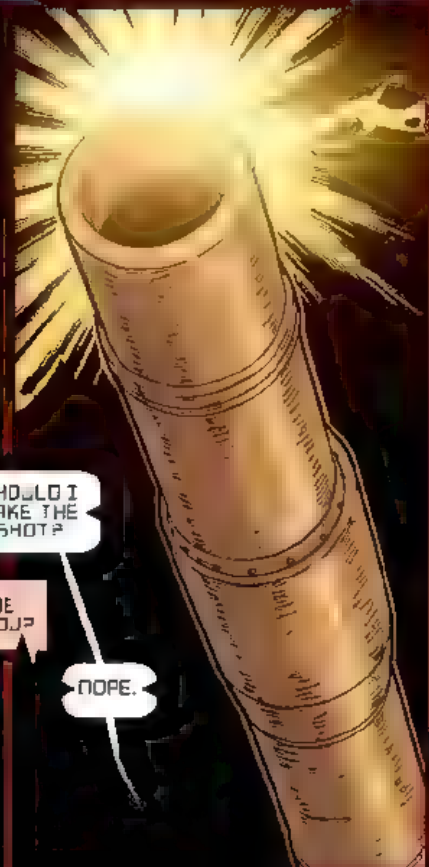


BLITZWING?

BOSS, YOU DON'T
BELIEVE THIS



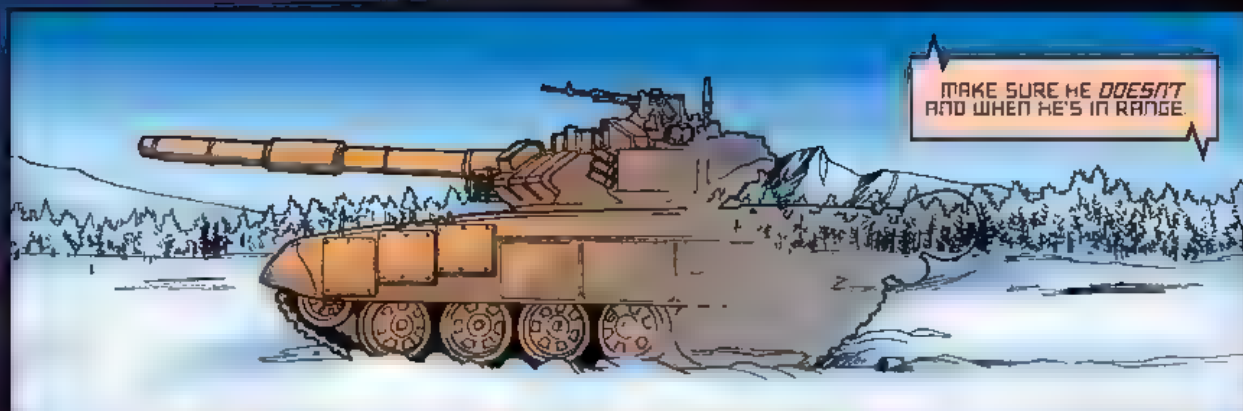
BUT I'VE GOT
OPTIMUS PRIME
HIMSELF, BANG
IN MY SIGHTS



SHOULD I
TAKE THE
SHOT?

HAS HE
SEEN YOU?

NOPE.



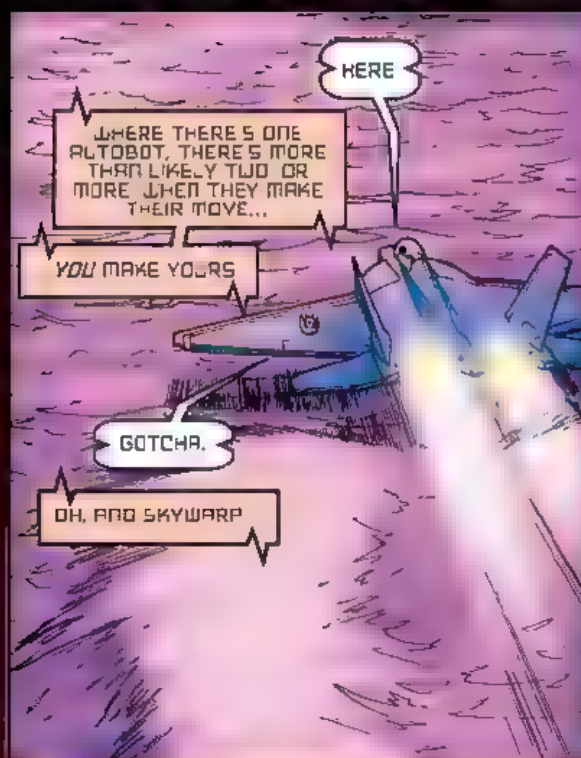
MAKE SURE HE *DOESN'T*
AND WHEN HE'S IN RANGE



TAKE THE SHOT



SKYWARP



HERE

WHERE THERE'S ONE
ALTOBOT, THERE'S MORE
THAN LIKELY TWO OR
MORE. WHEN THEY MAKE
THEIR MOVE...

YOU MAKE YOURS

GOTCHA.

OH, AND SKYWARP



BRING
ASTROTRAIN
WITH YOU

ARK-52

UNDERSTOOD
NIGHTBEAT OUT

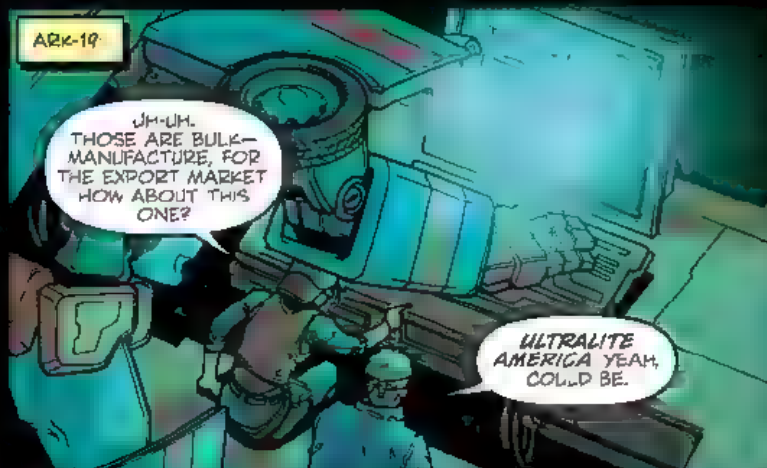
LOOKS LIKE WE
TURNED UP IN THE
MIDDLE OF SOMETHING,
HOT ROD PRIME AND
MOST OF THE TACTICAL
UNIT ARE IN THE FIELD
SEEMS MEGATRON'S
MAKING HIS MOVE

WE'RE TO SIT
TIGHT UNTIL
WE GET OUR
BEARINGS AND
THEN

HEY, NIGHTBEAT,
YOU CAN SIT TIGHT
IF YOU WANT ME
AND HARDHEAD

...WE'RE
GOING IN!

HOO-
HAH!



UH-UH.
THOSE ARE BULK-
MANUFACTURE, FOR
THE EXPORT MARKET
HOW ABOUT THIS
ONE?

ULTRALITE
AMERICA YEAH,
COULD BE.



CAN YOU SORT
THE ORDERS BY
SIZE AND DATE? IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
RECENT.

...AND CHANCES
ARE THEY ONLY
TOOK WHAT THEY
NEEDED.



UH... THERE
THOSE TWO. A
GARAGE IN BEAVER,
UTAH... AND... A
CUSTOM CAR OUTLET
IN FORT WAYNE,
INDIANA.

YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS MEANS.
DON'T YOU?



ROAD
TRIP!



I HOPE
YOU WEREN'T
THINKING OF
GOING
ANYWHERE?



WITHOUT
ME!

TO BE CONTINUED.



THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION



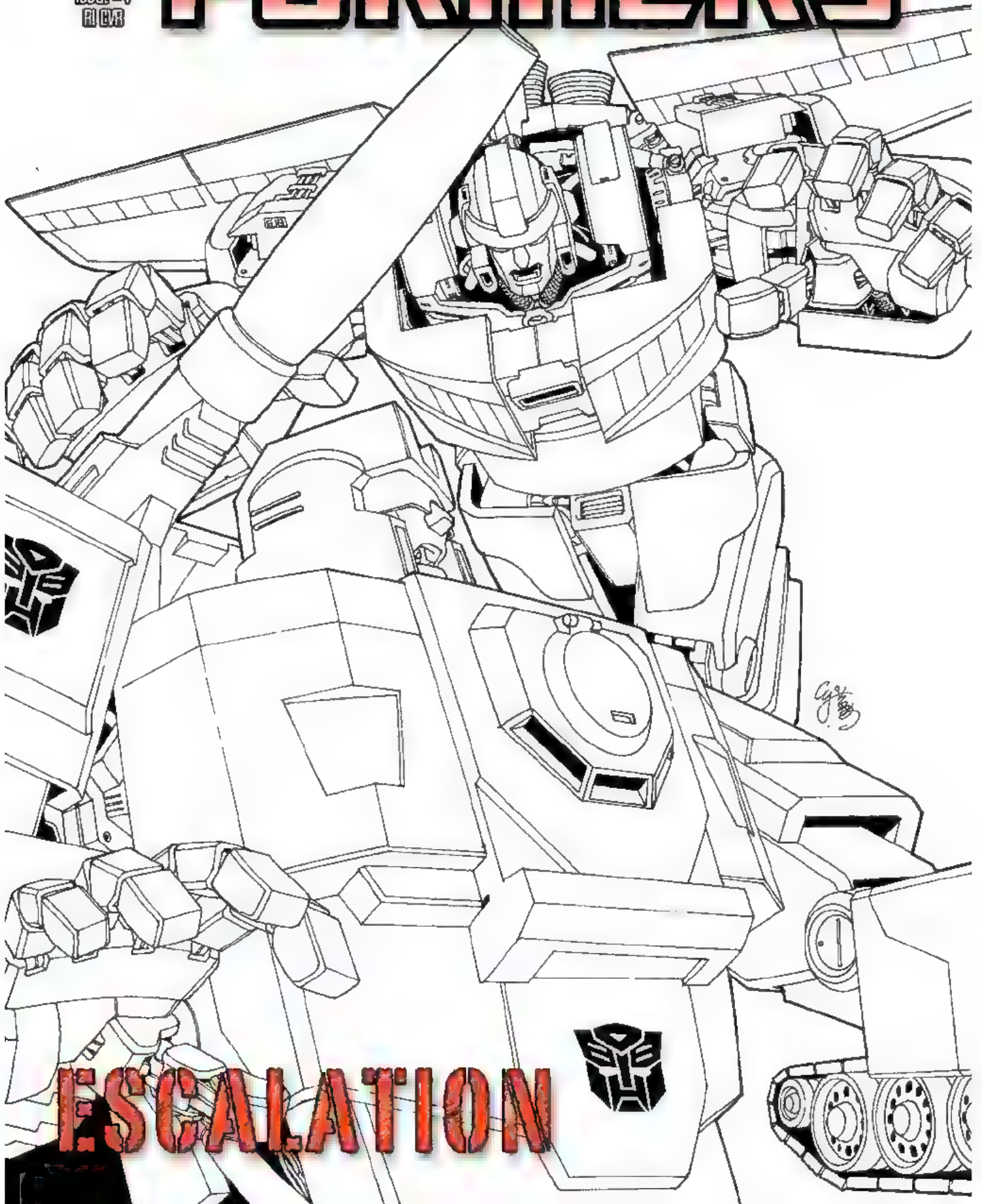
THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION



THE TRANSFORMERS™



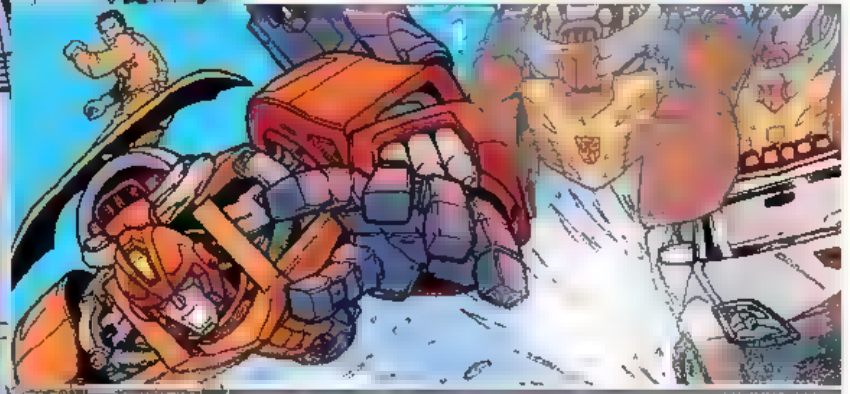
ESCALATION



THE TRANSFORMERS FORMERS ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY **SIMON FURMAN**
ART BY **E.J. SU**
COLORS BY **ZAC ATKINSON**
LETTERS BY **NEIL UYETAKE**
EDITS BY **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY **E.J. SU**
VARIANT COVER BY **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**



ISSUE NUMBER FOUR

ESCALATION

When an incendiary conflict flares on a disputed stretch of border between Russia and the breakaway state of Brasnya, OPTIMUS PRIME leads an Autobot assault team into the area in an effort to frustrate MEGATRON's efforts to agitate the tense standoff and capture the artificial human (facsimile) GEORGI KOSKA. And back in the USA, IRONHIDE, RATCHET, VERITY CARLO and JIMMY PINK seek to shed light on the mysterious abduction of SUNSTREAKER and HUNTER D'NION. .

PHASE TWO CONTINUES...



Licensed by:



Properties
Group


Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Amie Lozanski and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site.

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

THE TRANSFORMERS: ESCALATION #4, FEBRUARY 2007, FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

IDW Publishing is
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robbie Robbins, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Oprisko, Vice President
Alan Payne, Vice President of Sales
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Privman, Business Development




I HAVEN'T A CLUE
WHERE I AM...



...WHO THESE
PEOPLE ARE.



...OR WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.



ONE MOMENT I WAS RIDING IN
SUNSTREAKER. THE NEXT
HERE, WAS THERE AN ACCIDENT?
WAS I INJURED? AND WHY...


CAN'T I SPEAK?

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE
TO ME? WHAT ARE THEY
GOING TO DO WITH ME?

RIGHT...



..PREP
HIM FOR
SURGERY.



OH, GOD...

FORT WAYNE,
INDIANA.



IDEA & DESIGN WORKS CUSTOM WHEELS

Just
Closed

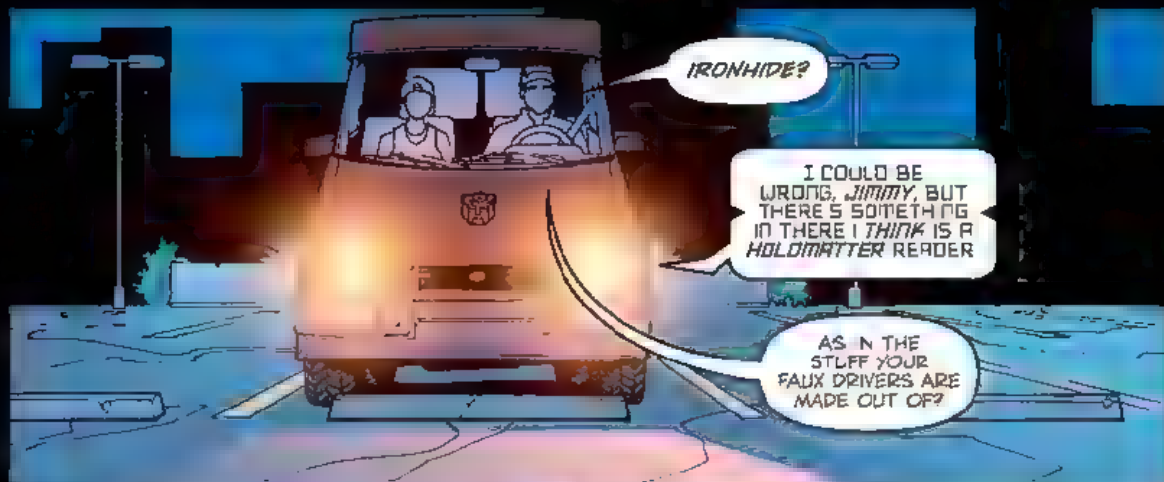
I KNOW THE
CRIME RATE
HEREABOUTS
HAS GONE
SKY-HIGH...

...BUT ISN'T
THIS ON THE
EXTREME
SIDE?

RIGHT.
THAT'S A LOT OF
SECURITY FOR A
FEW WHEELTRIMS
AND SOME DODGY
IN-CAR AUDIO

AND IT'S
SOPHISTICATED
STUFF. MAYBE TOO
SOPHISTICATED





IRONHIDE?

I COULD BE
WRONG, JIMMY, BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING
IN THERE I THINK IS A
HOLDMATTER READER

AS IN THE
STUFF YOUR
FAUX DRIVERS ARE
MADE OUT OF?



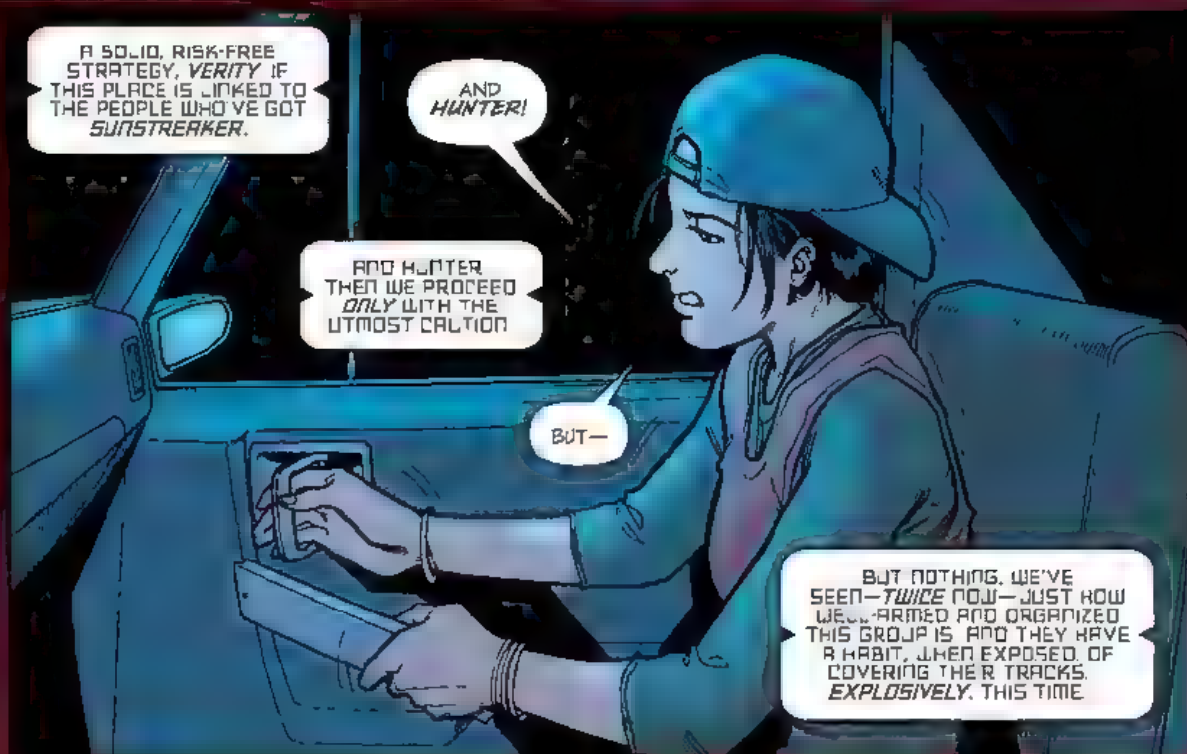
RIGHT

THEN
THIS...

...HAS TO BE THE
PLACE!



SO...
WHAT ARE
WE WAITING
FOR?



A SOLID, RISK-FREE
STRATEGY, *VERITY* IF
THIS PLACE IS LINKED TO
THE PEOPLE WHO'VE GOT
SUNSTREAKER.

AND
HUNTER!

AND HUNTER
THEN WE PROCEED
ONLY WITH THE
UTMOST CAUTION

BUT—

BUT NOTHING. WE'VE
SEEN—*TWICE* NOW—JUST HOW
WELL-ARMED AND ORGANIZED
THIS GROUP IS AND THEY HAVE
A HABIT, WHEN EXPOSED, OF
COVERING THEIR TRACKS
EXPLOSIVELY. THIS TIME

WE HAVE TO SEIZE
THE INITIATIVE

RATCHET?

THERE'S A REAR
LOADING BAY BACK
HERE, IRONHIDE. I
FIGURE IT'S OUR
BEST BET.

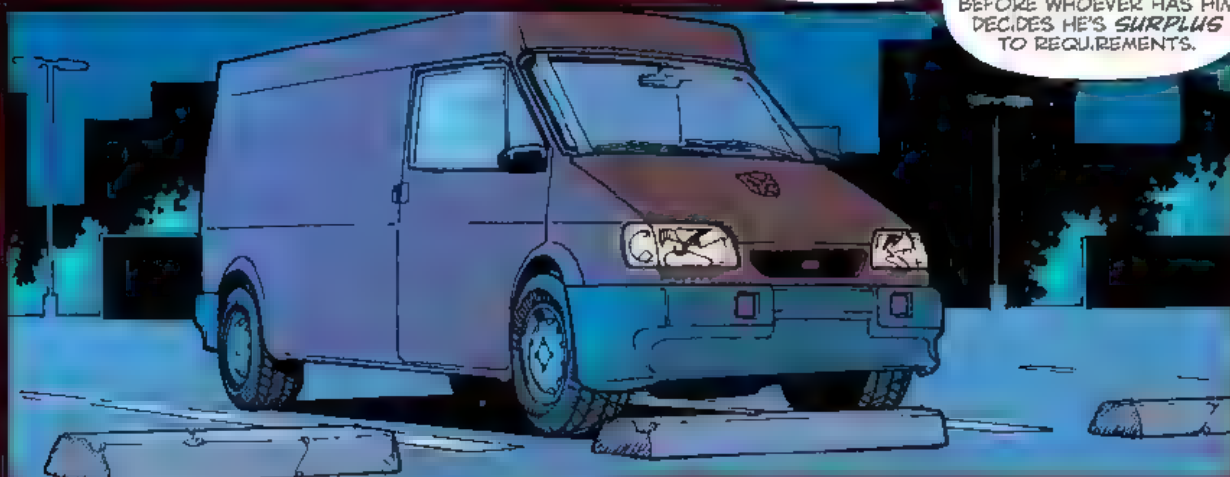
I CAN
CRYO-FREEZE THE
EXTERNAL PRESSURE
PADS AND MOTION
SENSORS, BUT IF THERE
ARE HOLOMATTER
READERS, WE SO MUCH
AS STICK A VIRTUAL
TOE INSIDE...

...WE'RE
BLOWN.

SO LET US
GO IN, ME AND
VERITY!

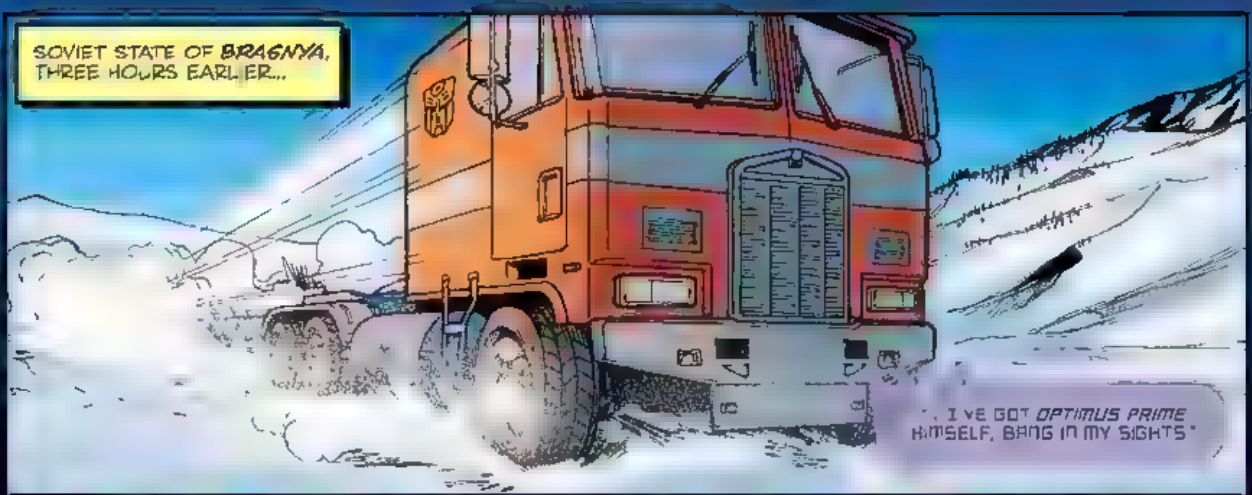
YEAH. AND
BEFORE YOU ROLL
OUT THE "THAT'S NOT
YOUR FIGHT" SPEECH, IT
IS! WHEN THEY TOOK
SUNSTREAKER, THEY
TOOK HUNTER TOO.

CHANCES ARE THAT
WAS A MISTAKE. WE
HAVE TO FIND HIM...
BEFORE WHOEVER HAS HIM
DECIDES HE'S **SURPLUS**
TO REQUIREMENTS.



I'M GOING TO
REGRET THIS
I KNOW IT

SOVIET STATE OF BRAGNYA,
THREE HOURS EARLIER...

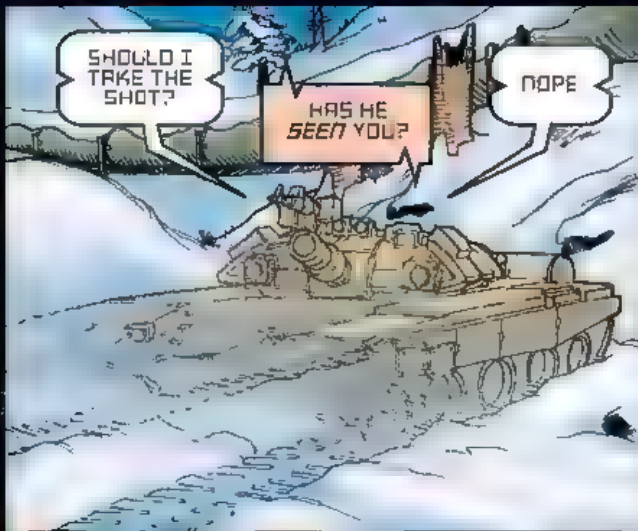


"I'VE GOT OPTIMUS PRIME
HIMSELF, BANG IN MY SIGHTS."

SHOULD I
TAKE THE
SHOT?

HAS HE
SEEN YOU?

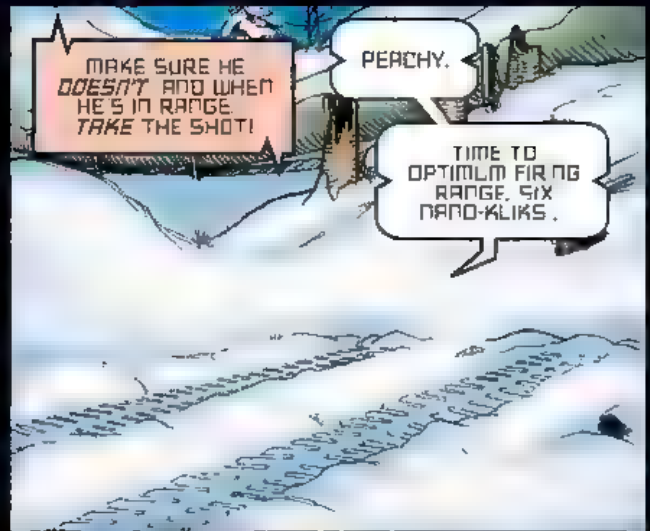
NOPE



MAKE SURE HE
DOESN'T AND WHEN
HE'S IN RANGE
TAKE THE SHOT!

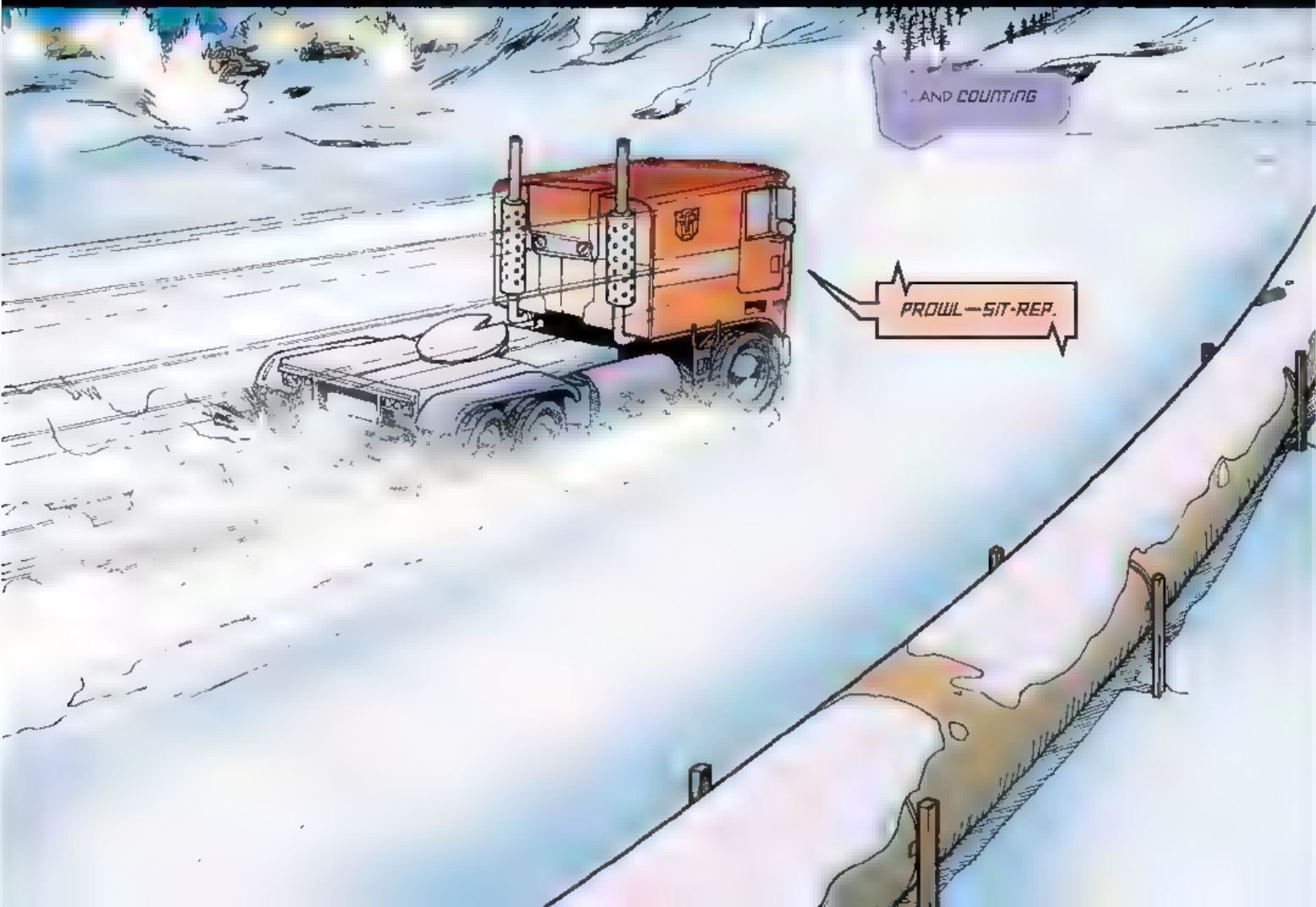
PERCHY.

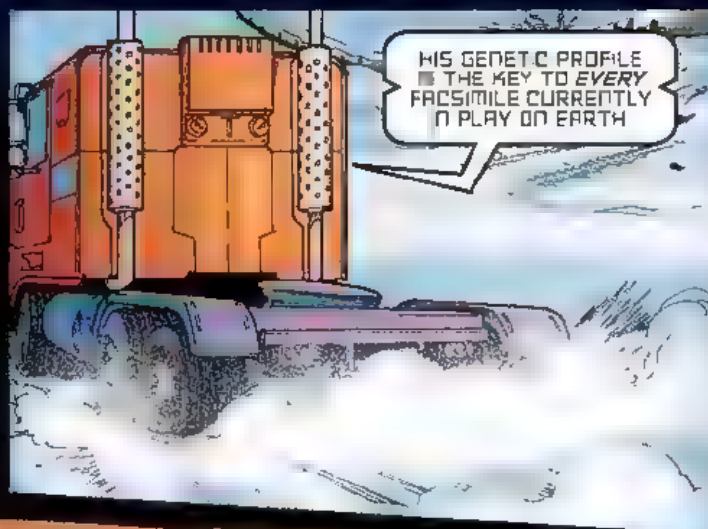
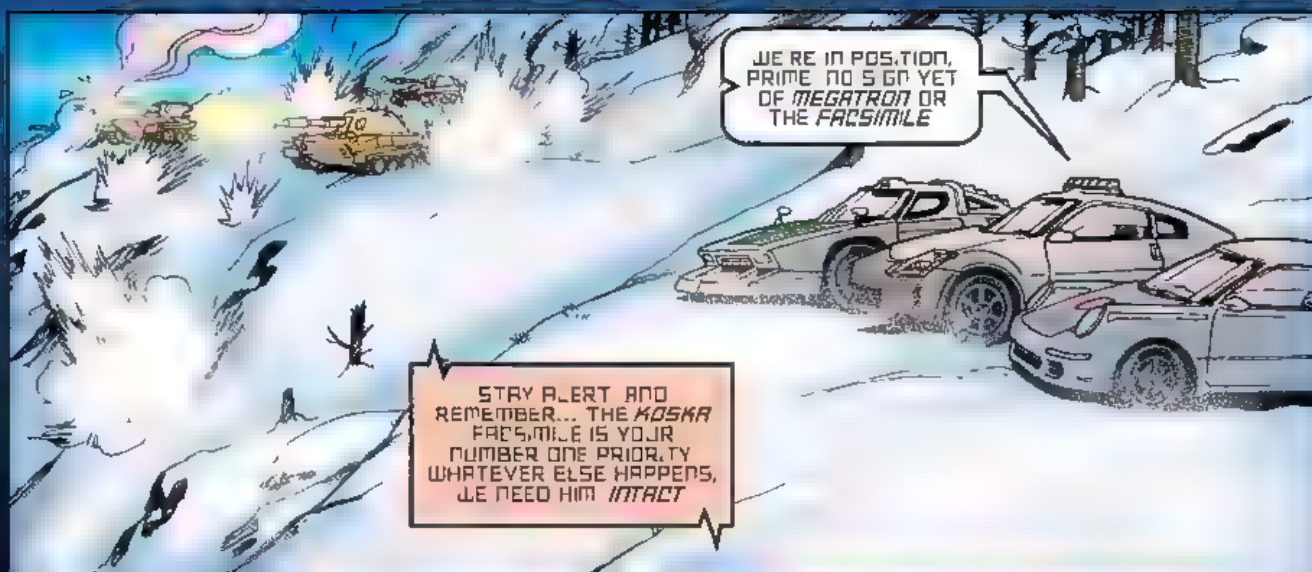
TIME TO
OPTIMUM FIRING
RANGE. SIX
HUND-KLIKS.

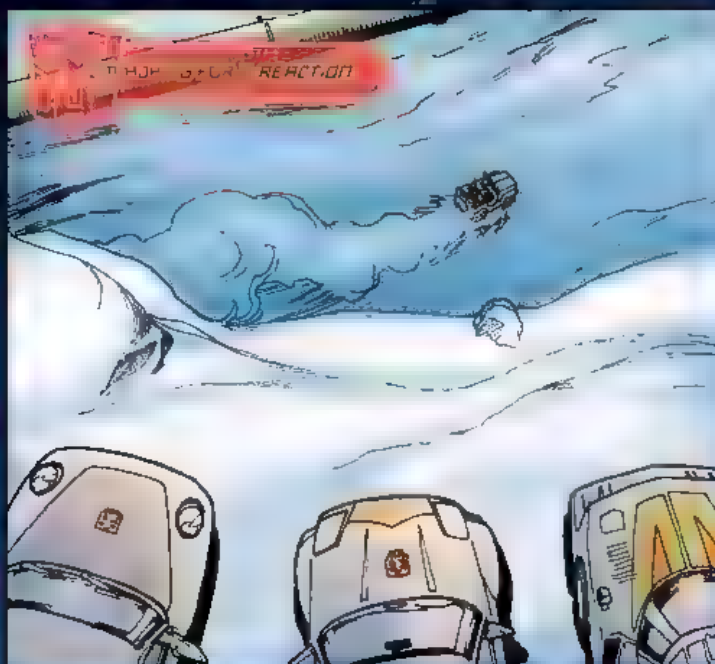
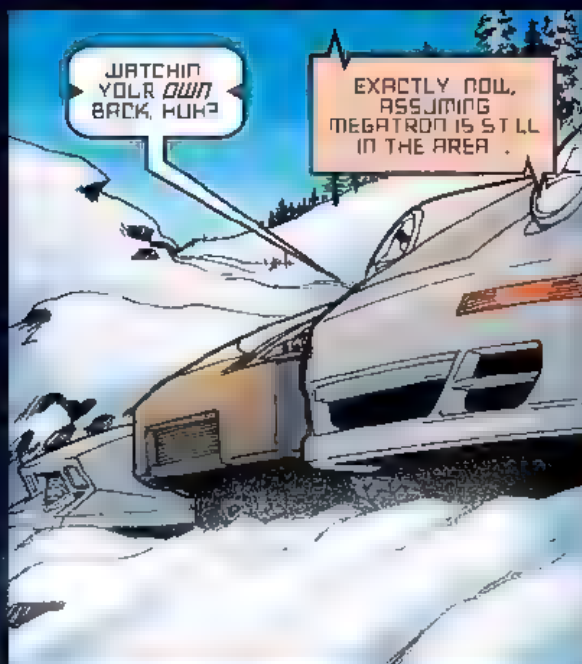
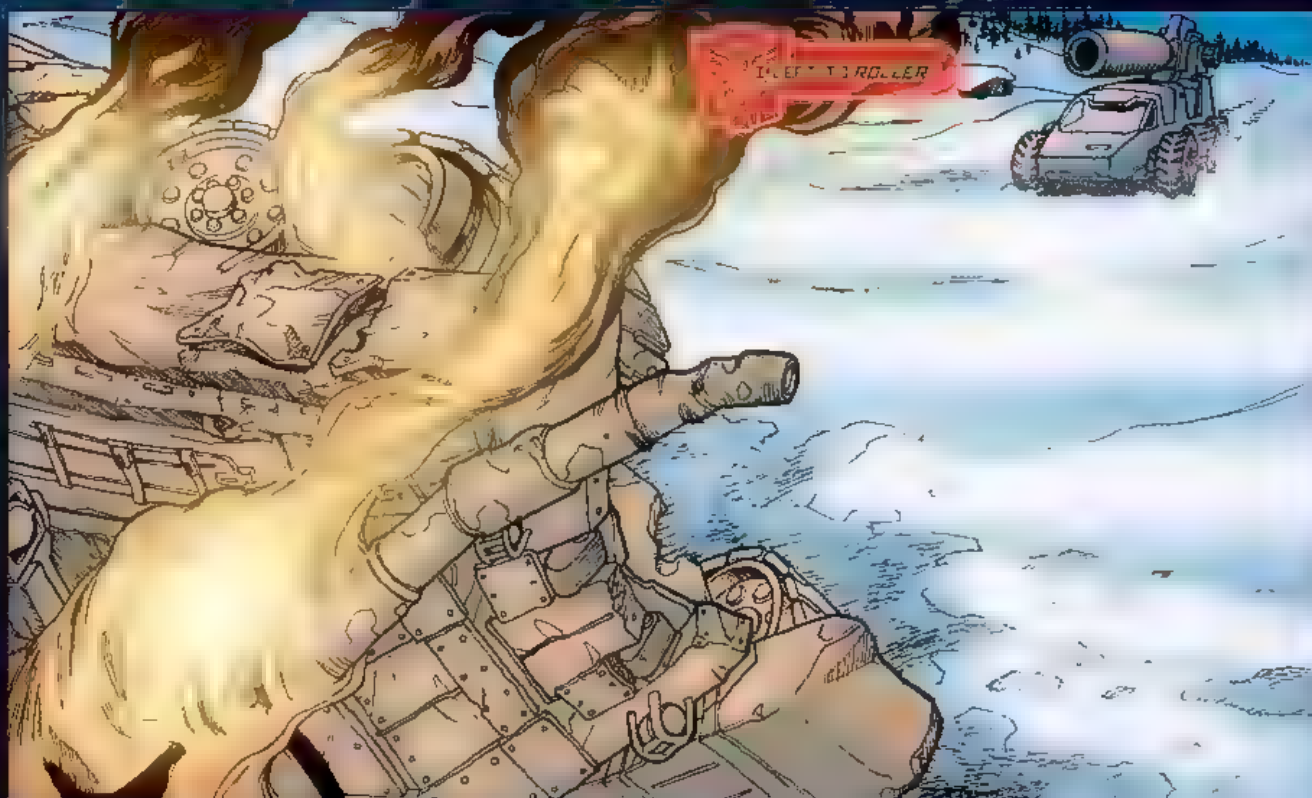
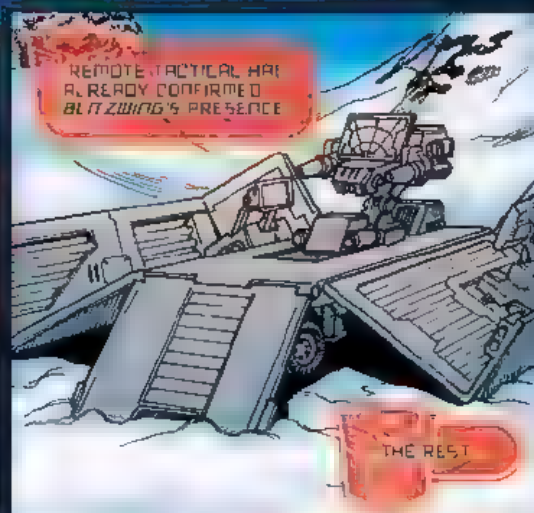
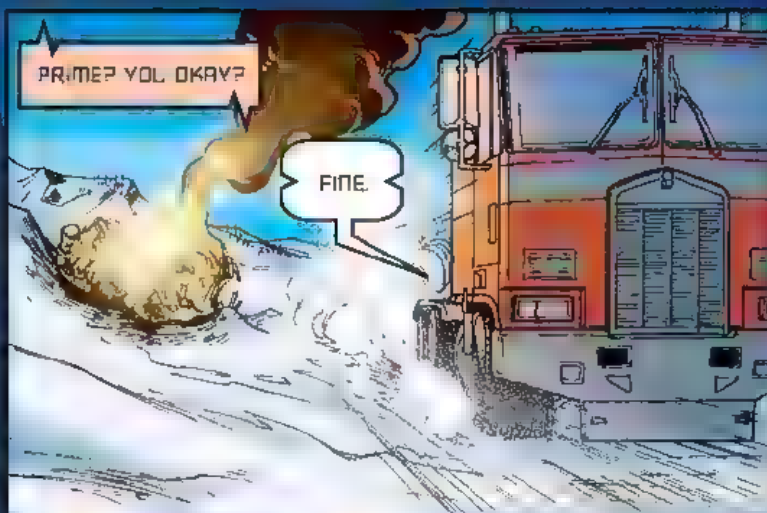


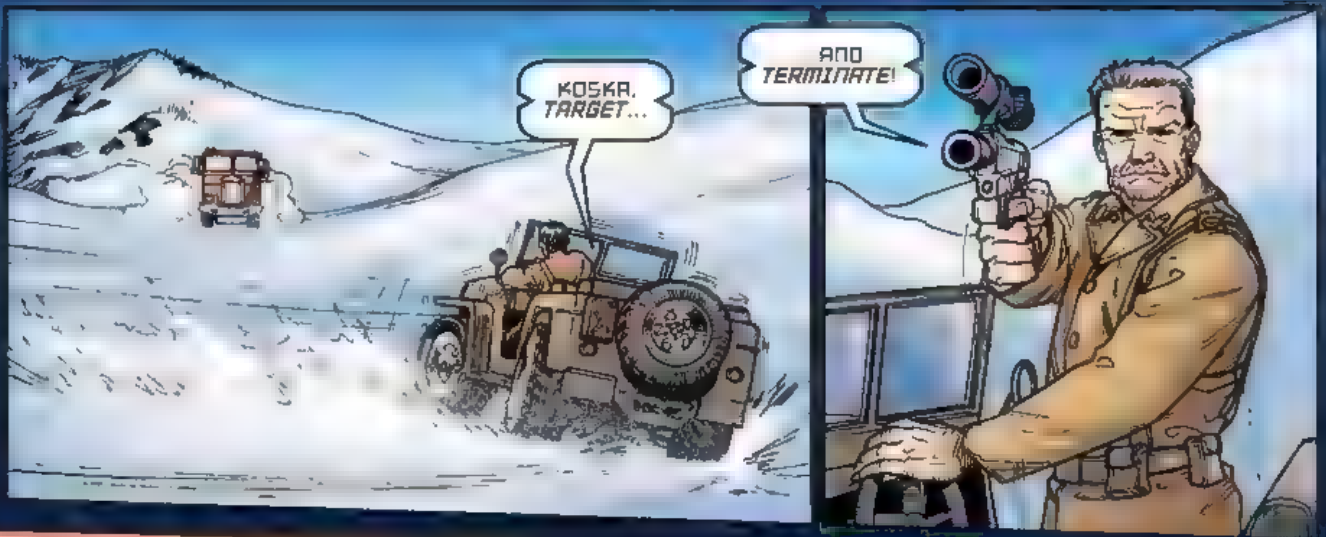
...AND COUNTING

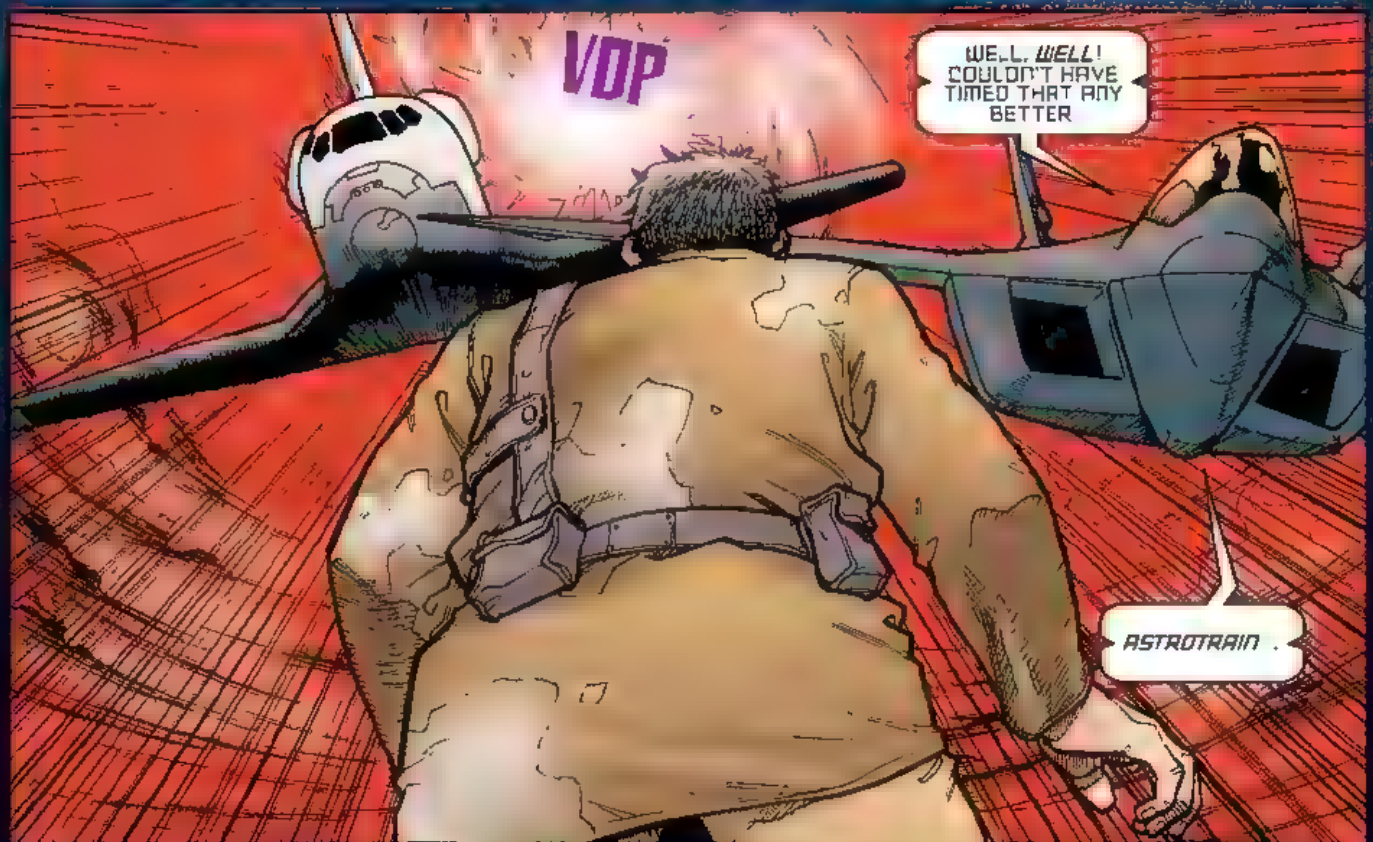
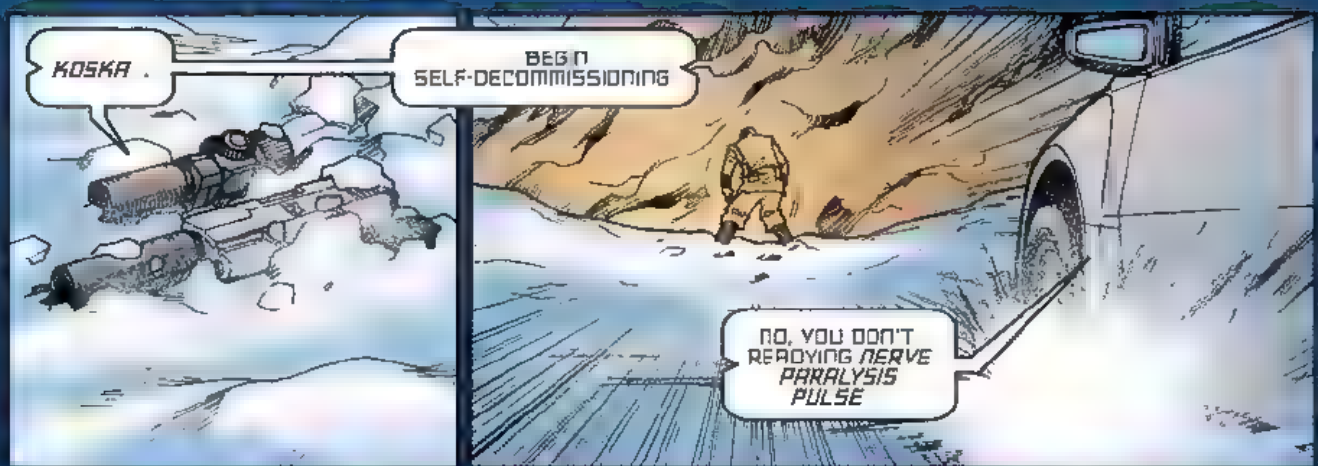
PROWL-SIT-REP.











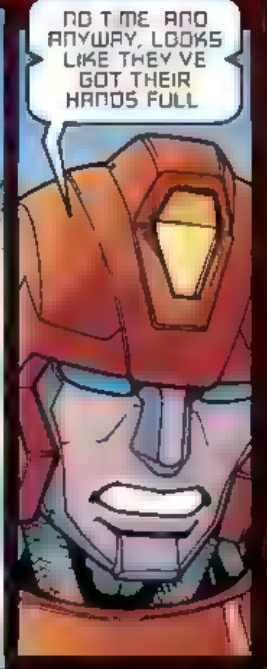


YOU GET ALL THAT?



JH HUH ONE FACSIMILE TAG AND BAG

WE SHOULD PROBABLY REPORT IN FIRST, *HOT ROD*, LET THEM KNOW WE'RE IN PLAY



NO TIME AND ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT THEIR HANDS FULL



YOU HELP OUT THE GRUNTS, *HARDHEAD*

I'M GOING AFTER THE GENETIC PAYLOAD!

FORT WAYNE

HEY! THEY'RE IT

GOT 'EM SO FAR, SO GOOD. SEEMS CUSTOM WHEELS. CONVENTIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUR DISCORDANCY FIELD

GOOD. LET'S JUST HOPE

HEY, HEY, NO MORE FORSTNS APPRES

WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

PALLETS OF ULTRALITE-50

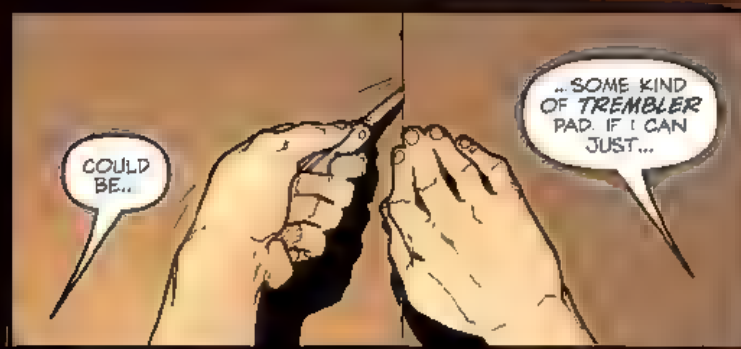
COULD BE, THAT CONSIGNMENT OF ALLOY WE TRACKED WAS DELIVERED AND SHIPPED ONWARDS. BUT IF NOT, WHERE DID IT GO?

THIS LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY STANDARD RETAIL OUTLET AND ULTRALITE'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SELL OVER THE COUNTER. SO, EITHER IT'S HERE, IN SHEET FORM, OR IT WAS USED... MAYBE TO BUILD A SUNSTREAKER DECOY!

"PST! JIMMY."

WATER
STREATER





...SOME KIND OF TREMBLER PAD. IF I CAN JUST...



MORE OF IRONHIDE'S "TOO SOPHISTICATED" TECHNOLOGY.



HN.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

BRASNYA:

CEASE
FIRE!

WHAT IS IT?
CAPTAIN
TODOROF?

THE RUSSIANS
HAVE STOPPED
THEIR SHELLING
AND... I SEE
WHY

WE ARE NO
LONGER THE
ONLY COMBATANTS
IN THE AREA.

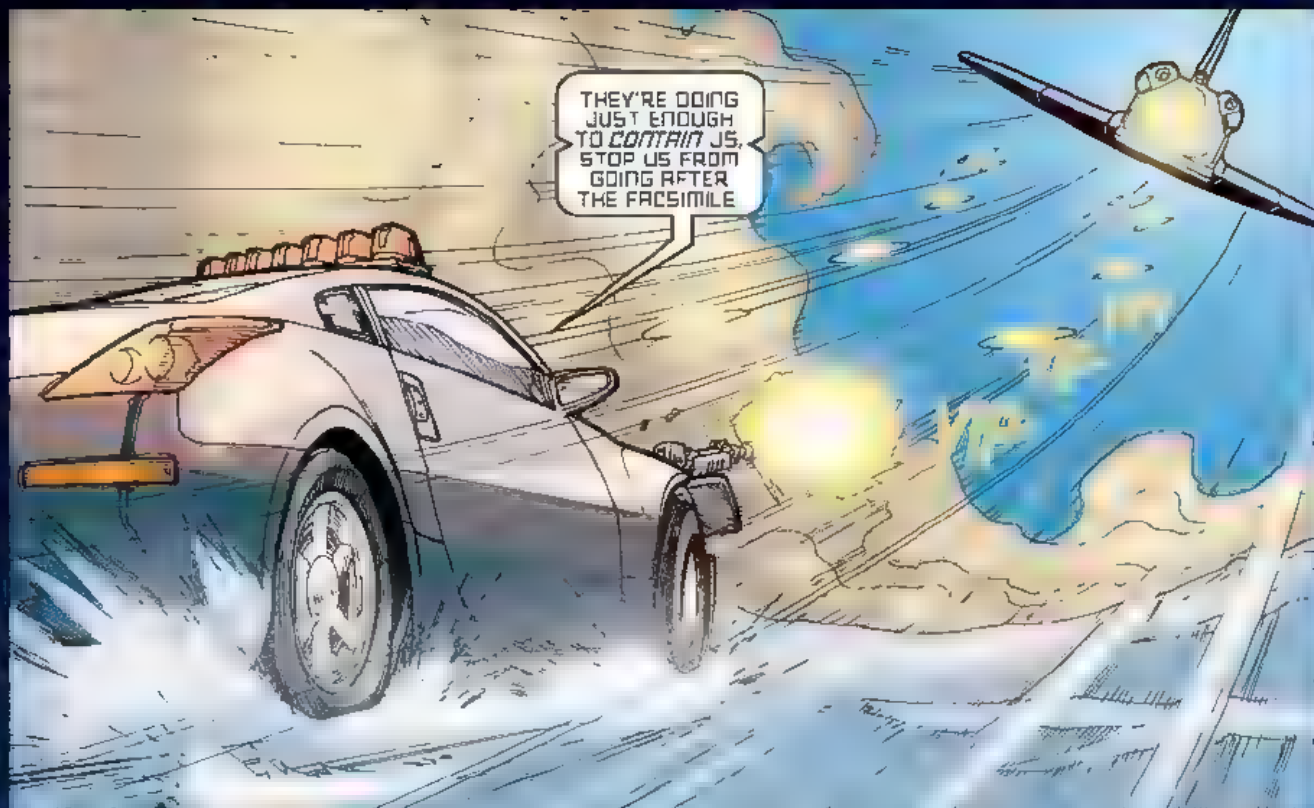
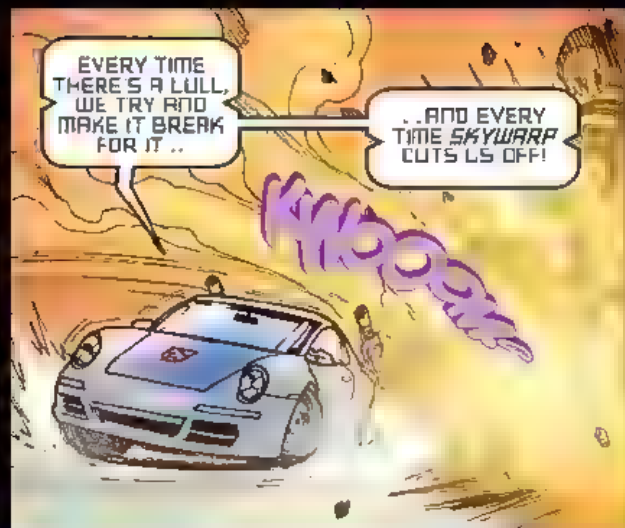
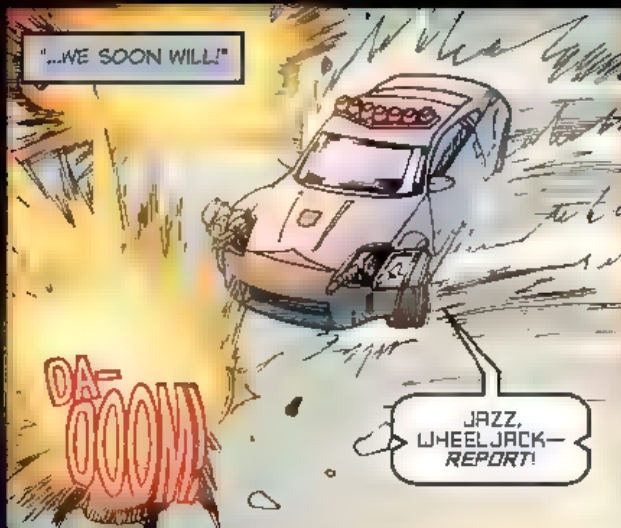
WE APPEAR TO
HAVE AN AMERICAN
F-22 RAPTOR, BEING
SHOT AT BY SOME
KIND OF RALLY
VEHICLE.

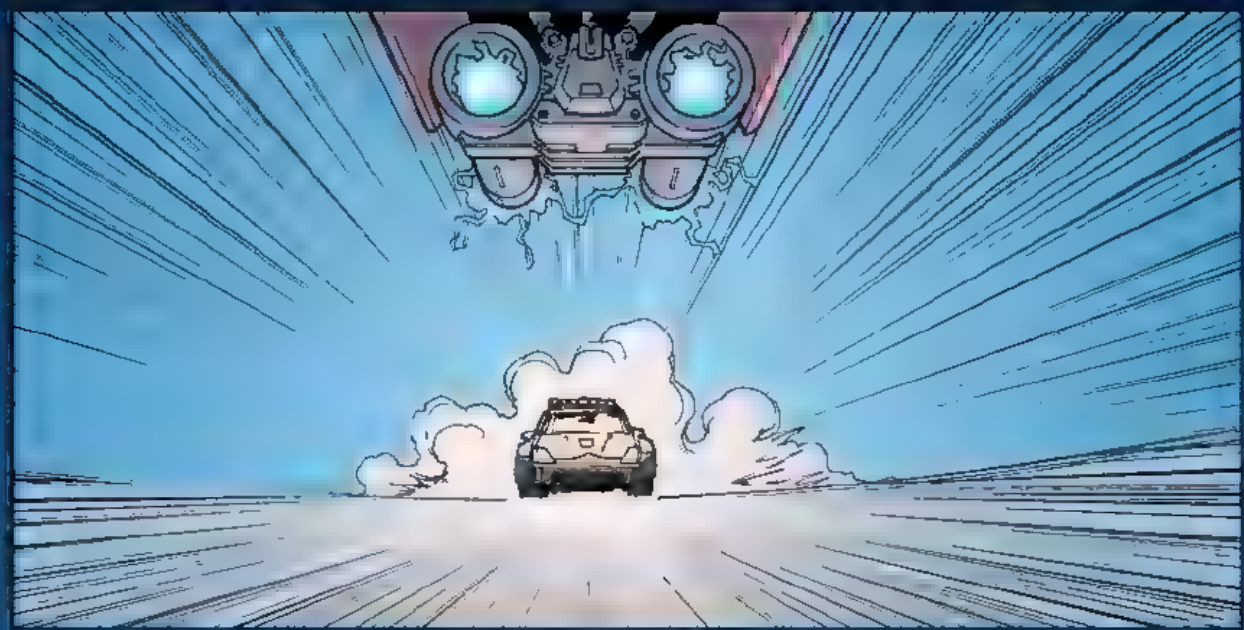
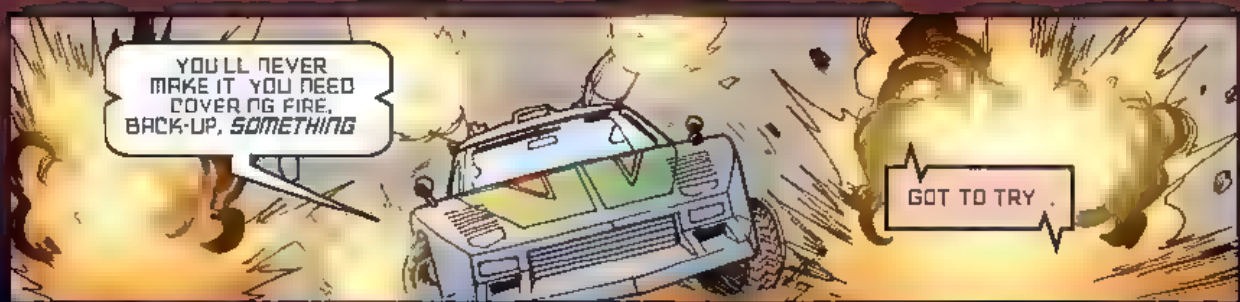
AND A POLICE
PATROL CAR, ALSO
AMERICAN...

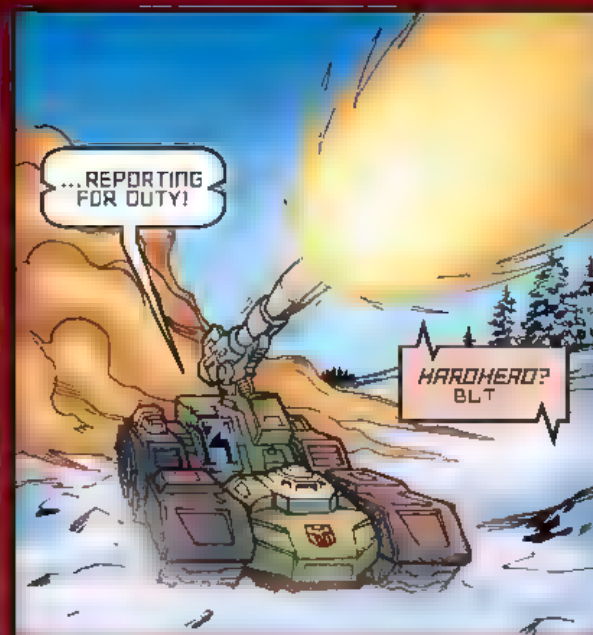
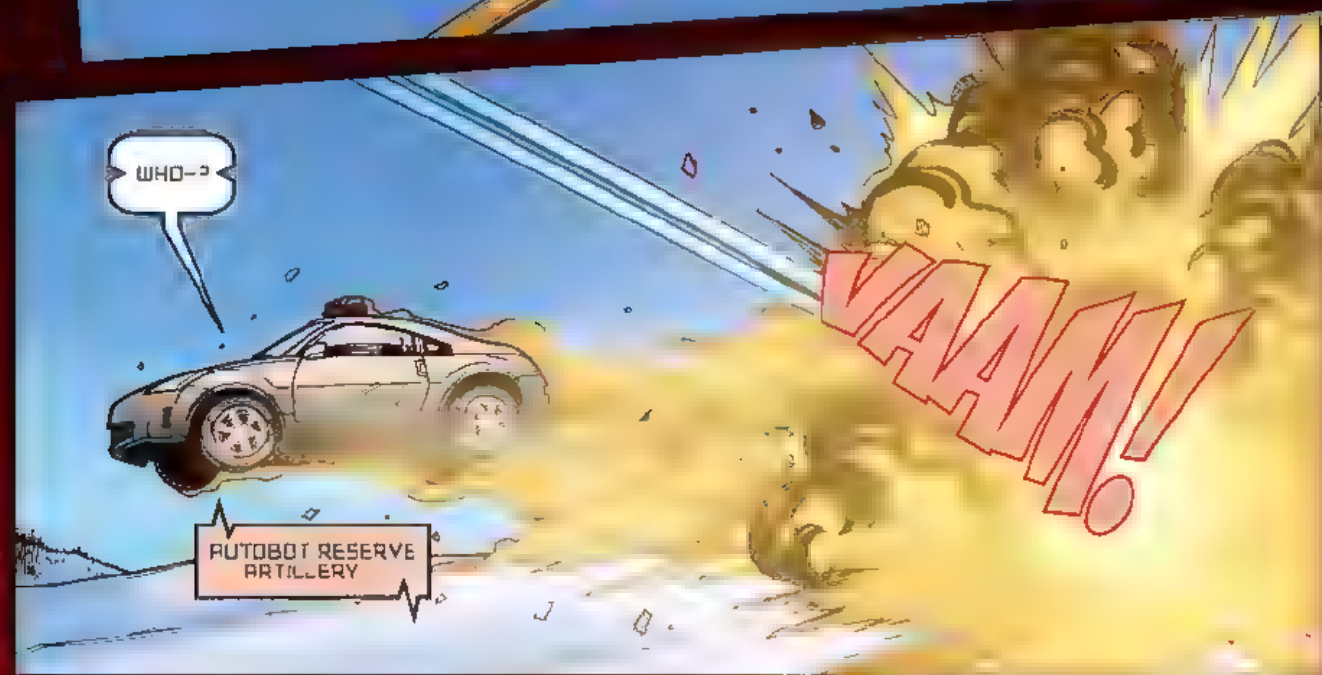
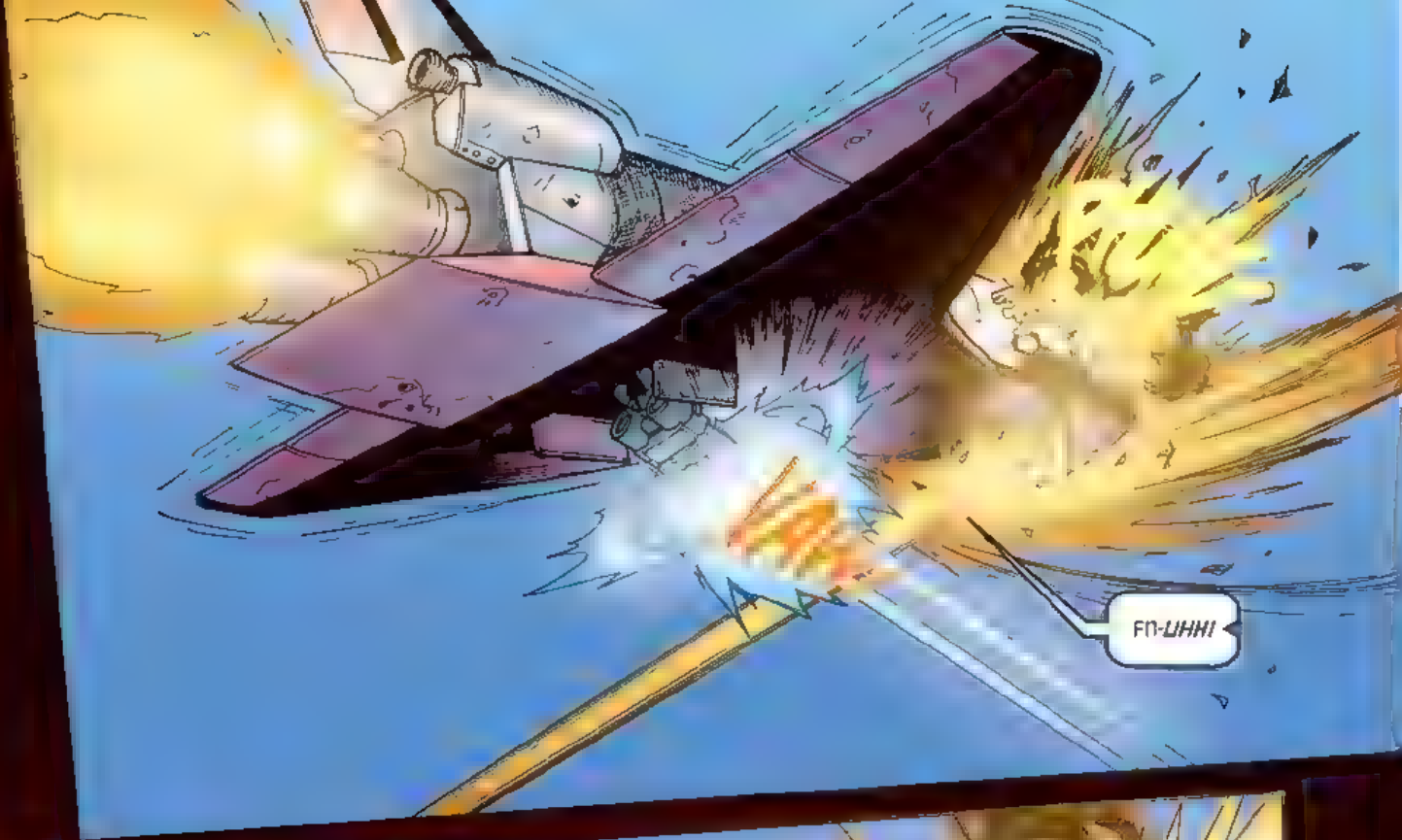
...UNDER
ATTACK FROM
A SPACE
SHUTTLE?

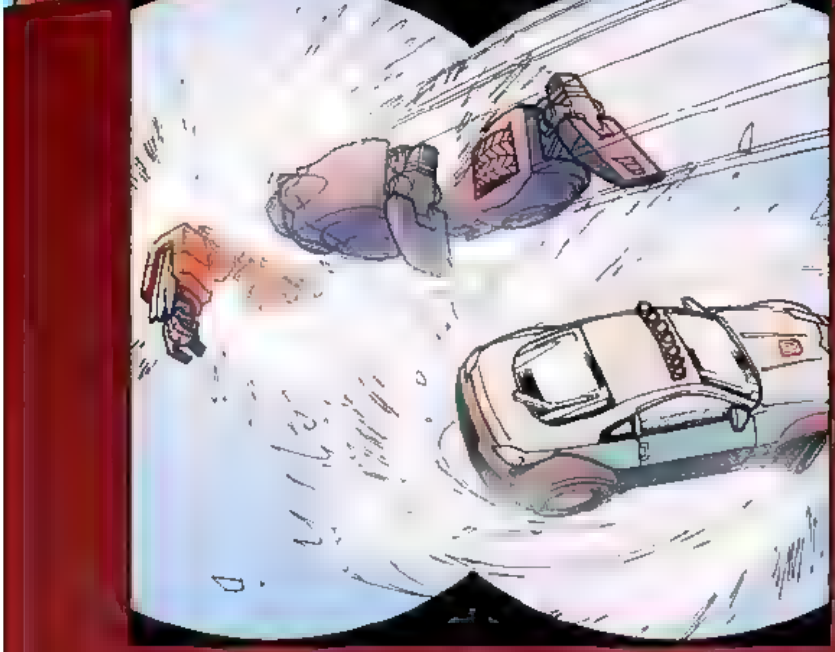
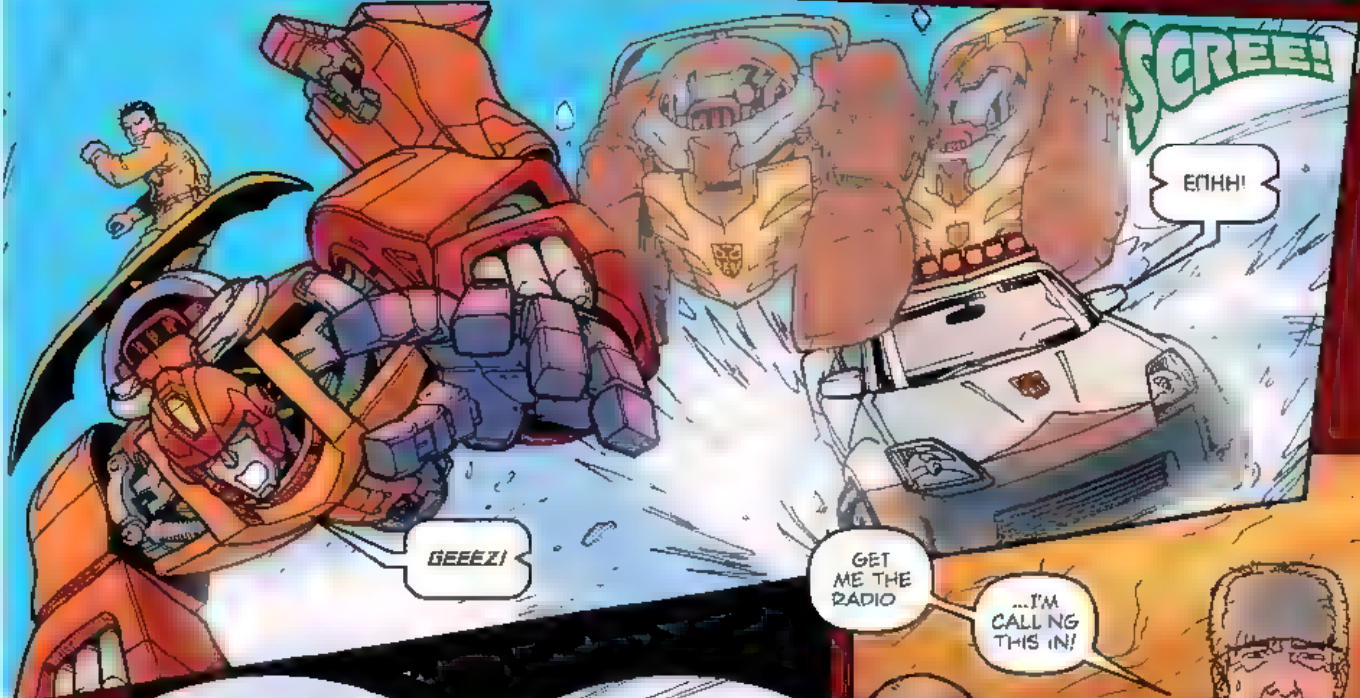
I... DO NOT
UNDERSTAND

NEITHER
DO I, BRESKI...
NEITHER DO I, BUT
I HAVE A BAD
FEELING...











WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
THIS THING?

OPTIMUS PRIME
THIS IS NIGHTBERT.

...

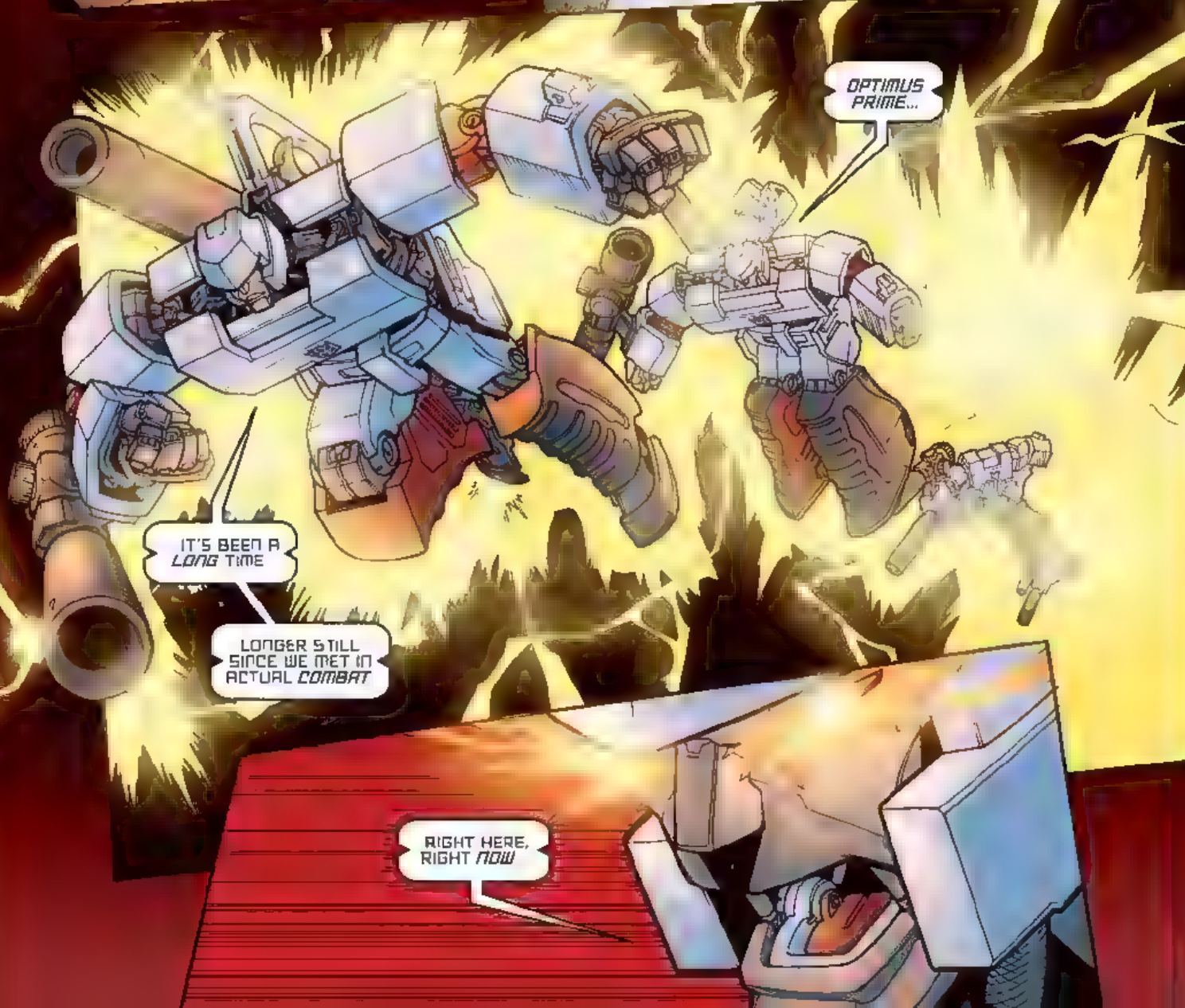
GO
AHEAD

I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE FLASHPOINT
FROM ORBIT. ALL THE LOCAL NEWS
FEEDS JUST WENT DEAD. AS FAR AS
I CAN TELL, NO SIGNAL THAT ISN'T
CYBERTRONIAN IN ORIGIN IS GOING
IN OR OUT OF THE AREA.



I THINK,
NIGHTBERT

I KNOW
WHY



OPTIMUS
PRIME...

IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME

LONGER STILL
SINCE WE MET IN
ACTUAL COMBAT

RIGHT HERE,
RIGHT NOW

A full-page comic book illustration depicting a high-action battle. On the left, a red truck is shown from a side-front perspective, with its front wheel and headlight visible. A large, white, mechanical robot with a complex, angular design is positioned in the center, appearing to be in the process of crushing or attacking the truck. The robot's right arm is extended towards the truck's cab. The background is a dark, stormy sky with heavy rain falling diagonally across the frame. Debris, including rocks and pieces of metal, is scattered around the base of the robot and the truck. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the robot saying "LET'S FINISH THIS!" and another from the truck saying "ONCE AND FOR ALL".

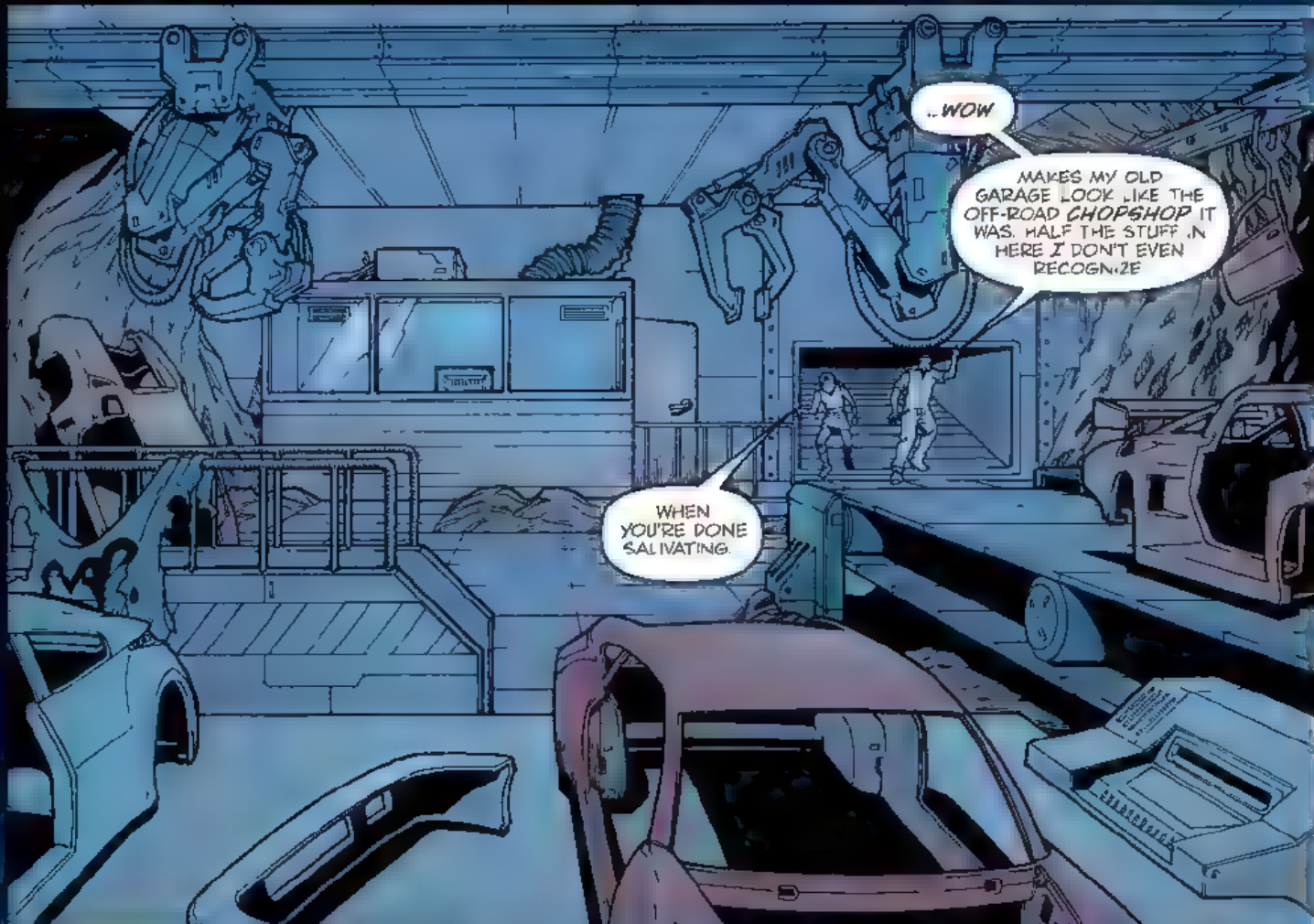
LET'S
FINISH THIS!

ONCE AND
FOR ALL

FORT WAYNE



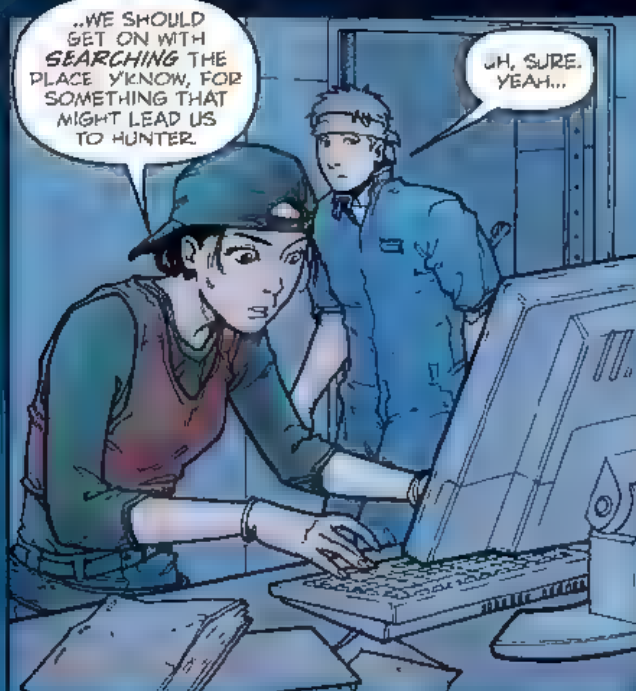
"IN A WORD..."



..WOW

MAKES MY OLD GARAGE LOOK LIKE THE OFF-ROAD CHOPSHOP IT WAS. HALF THE STUFF IN HERE I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE

WHEN YOU'RE DONE SALIVATING.



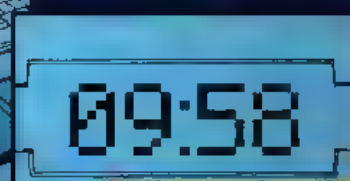
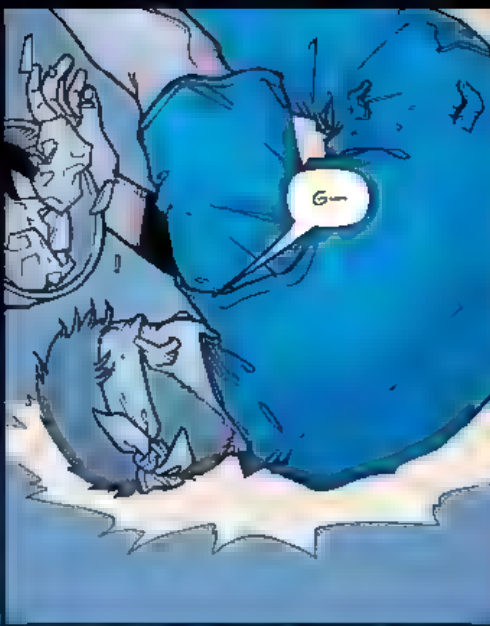
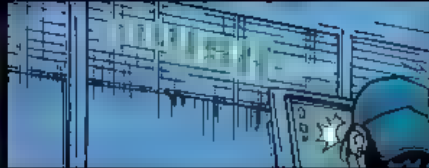
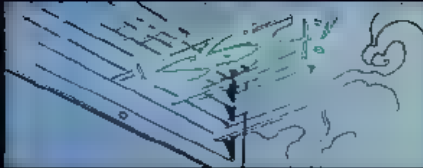
..WE SHOULD GET ON WITH **SEARCHING** THE PLACE Y'KNOW, FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT LEAD US TO HUNTER.

UH, SURE. YEAH...



LITTLE TIP I PICKED UP FROM READING TOO MANY DETECTIVE NOVELS—ALWAYS START WITH THE TRASH

RIGHT, KNOCK YOURSELF OUT



TO BE CONTINUED...


IDW
ISSUE #5-A
\$3.99

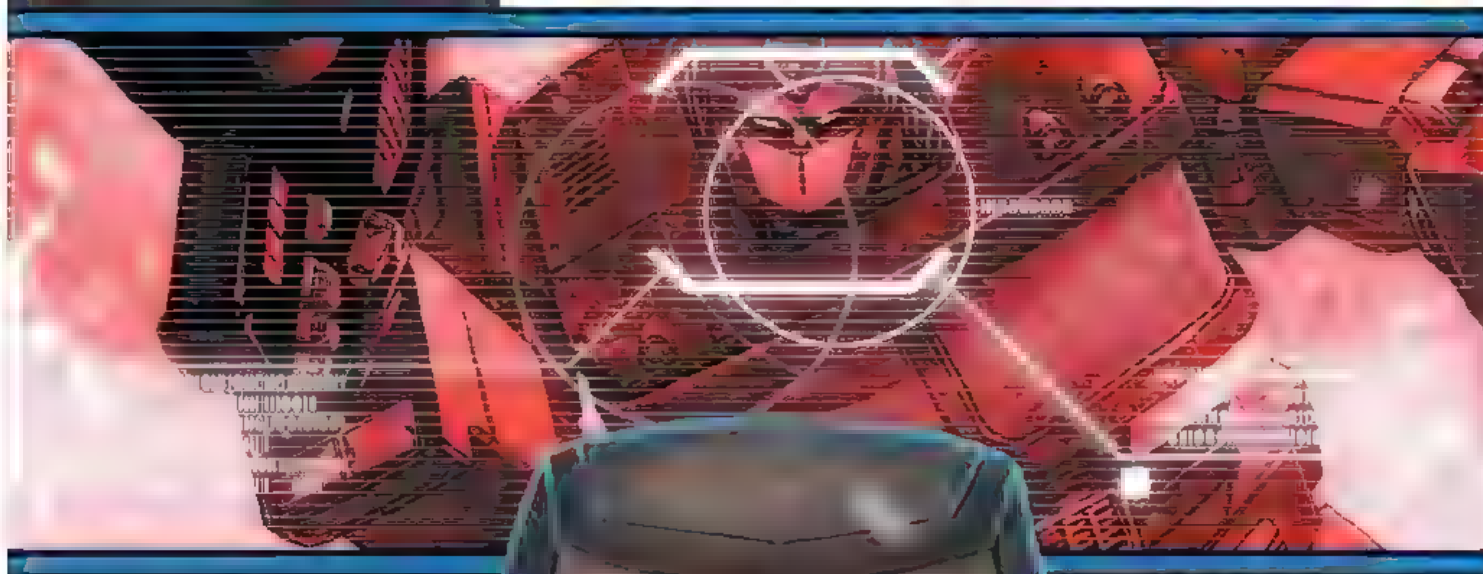
THE TRANSFORMERS™

ESCALATION



THE TRANSFORMERS™

FORMERS™

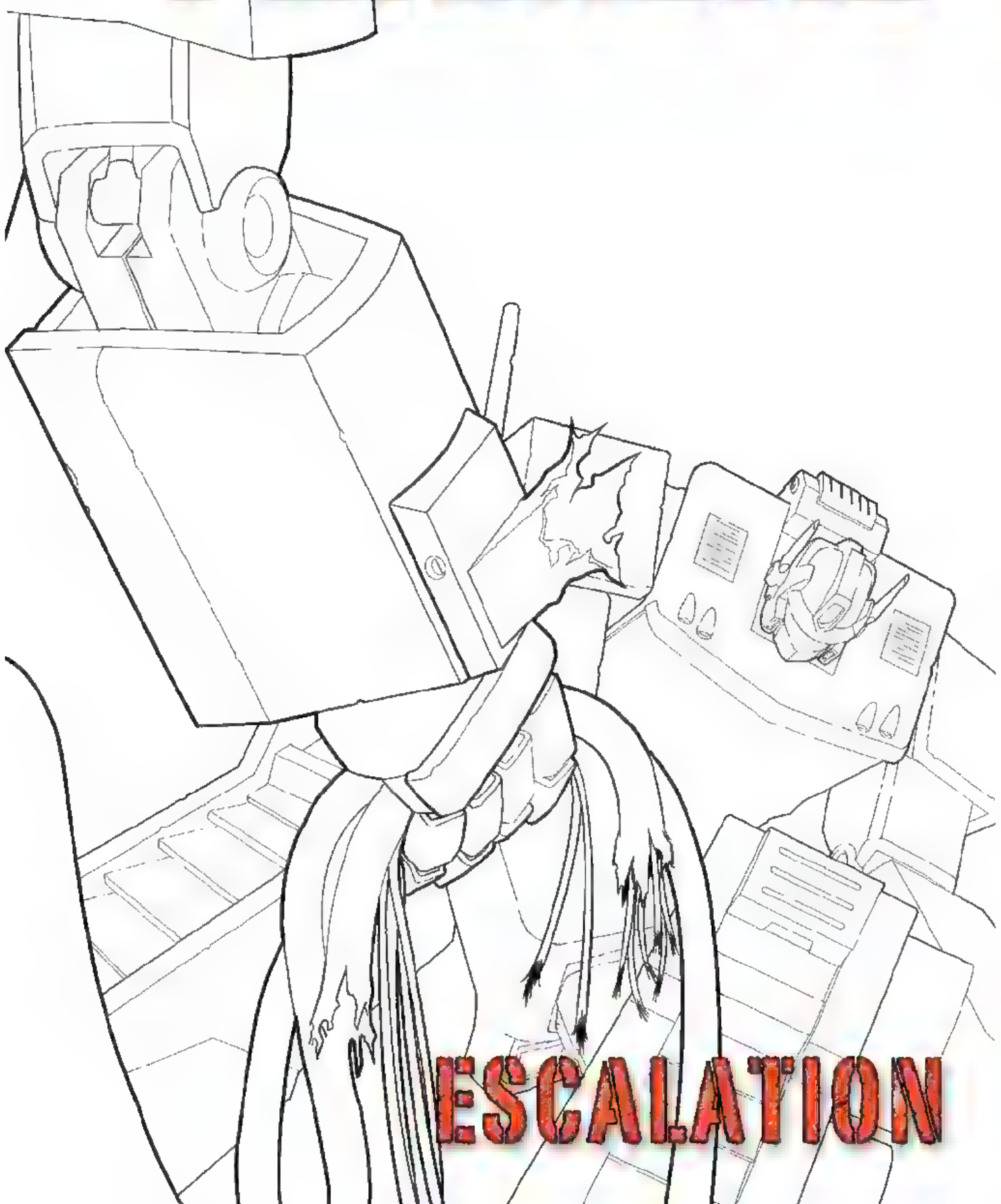


ESCALATION



ISSUE 45
RI-A

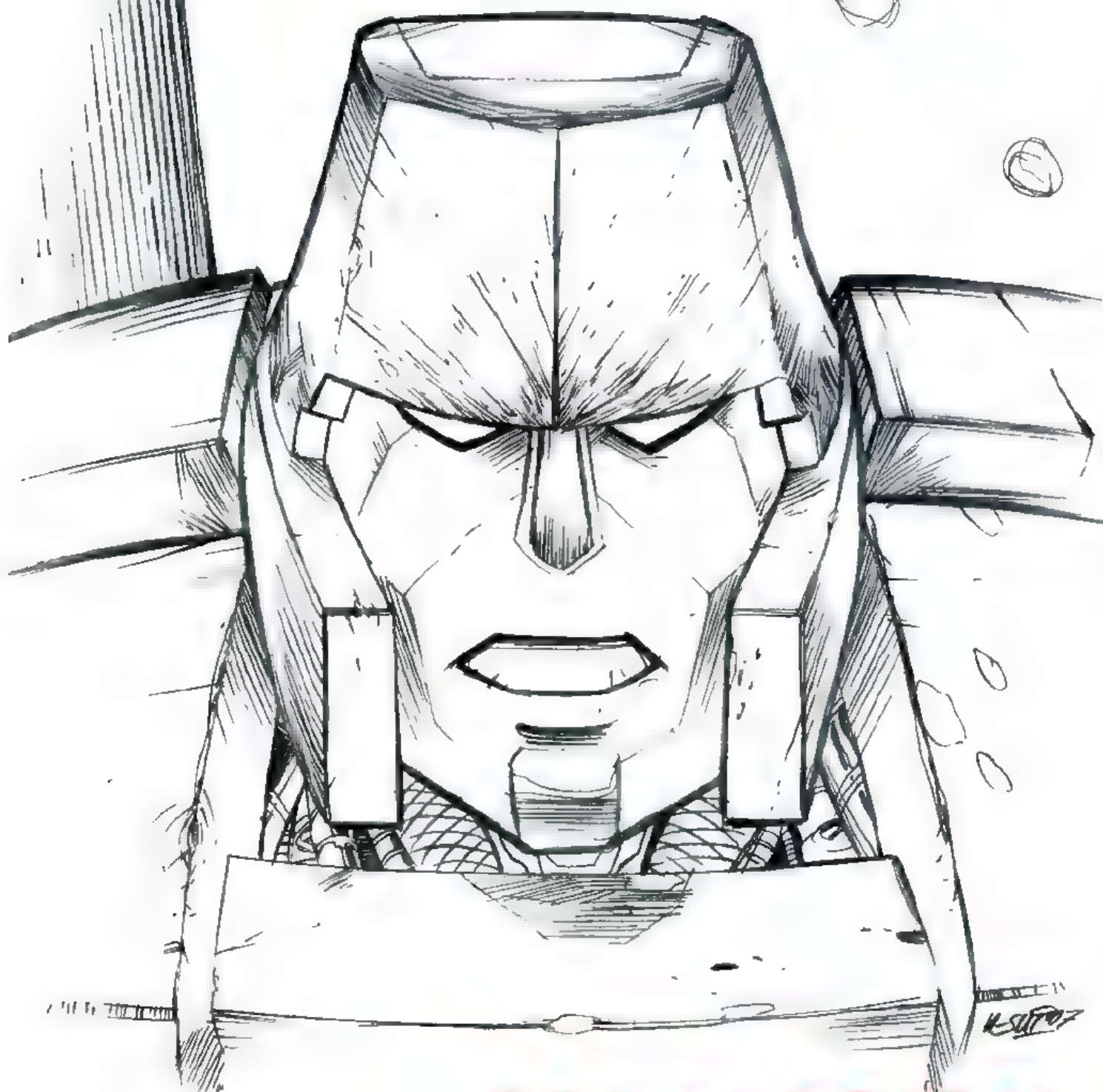
THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION



THE TRANSFORMERS™



ESCALATION

THE TRANSFORMERS™ ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY **SIMON FURMAN**
ART BY **E.J. SU**
COLORS BY **ZAC ATKINSON**
LETTERS BY **ROBBIE ROBBINS**
EDITS BY **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY **E.J. SU**
VARIANT COVER BY **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**



ISSUE NUMBER FIVE

ESCALATION

In the breakaway Russian state of Brashya, OPTIMUS PRIME clashes with MEGATRON, while their respective (AUTOBOT and DECEPTICON) forces seek to either capture or eliminate the artificial human GEORGI KOSKA, his cellular template the key to identifying all the other facsimiles currently active on Earth. Meanwhile, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, IRONHIDE and RATCHET wait outside Custom Wheels, while VERITY CARLO and JIMMY PINK investigate a secret underground workshop, in search of clues to the whereabouts of the abducted SUNSTREAKER and HUNTER O'NION.

PHASE TWO CONTINUES...



Licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Sheri Lucci and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

THE TRANSFORMERS: ESCALATION #5 MARCH 2007 FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 441 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.

IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

IDW Publishing is:
Ted Adams, Co-President
Robbie Robbins, Co-President
Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Kris Opnsko, Vice President
Alan Payne, Vice President of Sales
Neil Uyetake, Art Director
Dan Taylor, Editor
Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
Alex Garner, Creative Director
Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
Rick Primman, Business Development

(INTERLUDE) TAMPA, FLORIDA

"WELL?"

OUR LATEST
TEST SUBJECT IS
RECOVERING NICELY.
THERE'S NO SIGN
OF THE IMPLANTS BEING
REJECTED THIS
TIME.

GOOD.

I AM -KK- ANXIOUS
TO PROCEED TO A FULL
TEST TRANSFORMATION.
MY -KK- PATIENCE IS
NEARLY EXHAUSTED.

WE'RE ALREADY
GOING AS FAST AS
WE DARE. WE'VE HAD
TOO MANY SETBACKS
TO RUSH THINGS NOW.
DON'T FORGET.

YOU'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONE IN
NEED OF A NEW, AH,
LEASE OF LIFE!

-KK- HA-HA
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE
ABOUT YOU, DAD.
YOUR ABILITY TO PUT
YOURSELF ABOVE
EVERY -KK- LIVING
CREATURE ON THIS
MISERABLE PLANET!
YOU AND I.

WILL MAKE
A -KK- GREAT
TEAM.

RUSSIAN STATE OF BRAGNYA.

KRAAK!

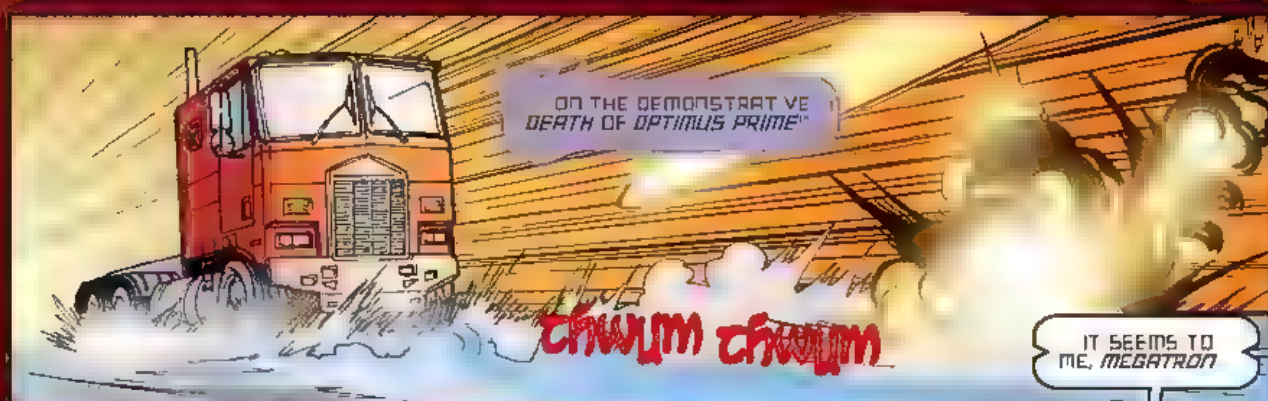
IT'S BEEN FAR
TOO LONG.

... SINCE I
REALLY CUT
LOOSE!

THE ONLY
DOWNSIDE OF A
COMMAND-LEVEL
EXISTENCE

AT LEAST NOW,
THANKS TO THE WONDER
OF STARSCREAM'S DRE-13,
I CAN EXPEND AS MUCH
ENERGY AS I LIKE

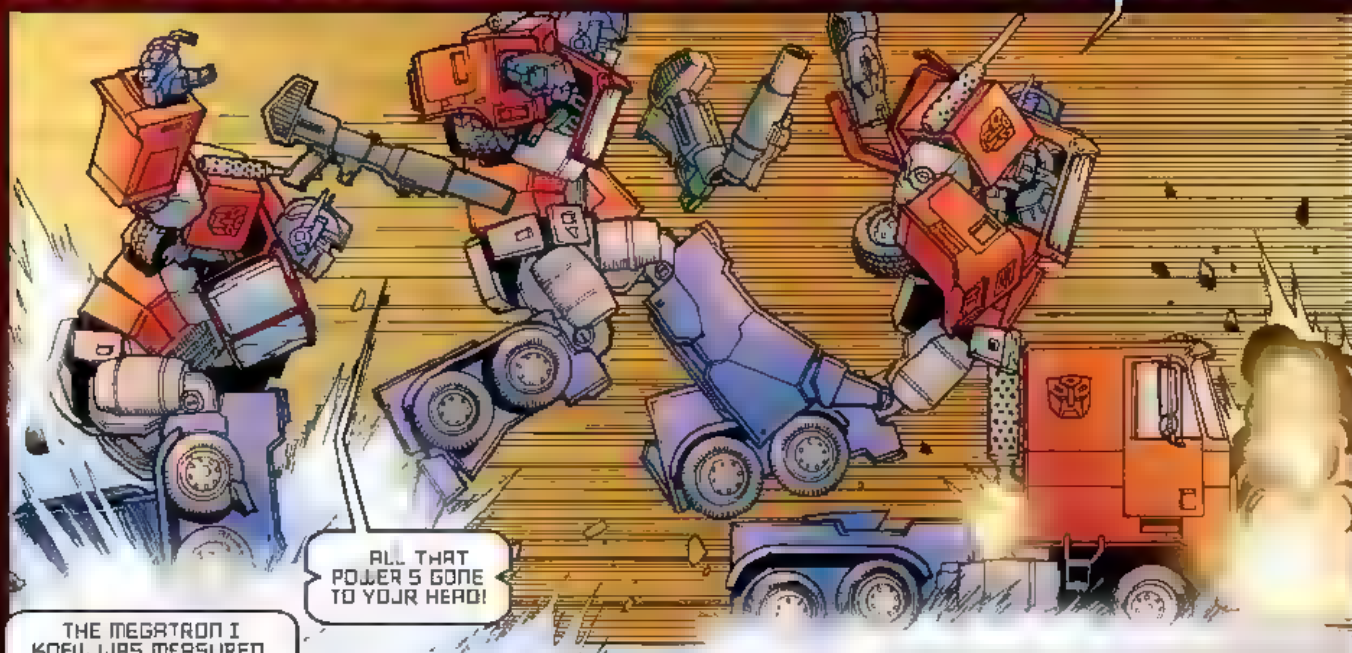
SLAASH!



ON THE DEMONSTRATE VE
DEATH OF OPTIMUS PRIME!"

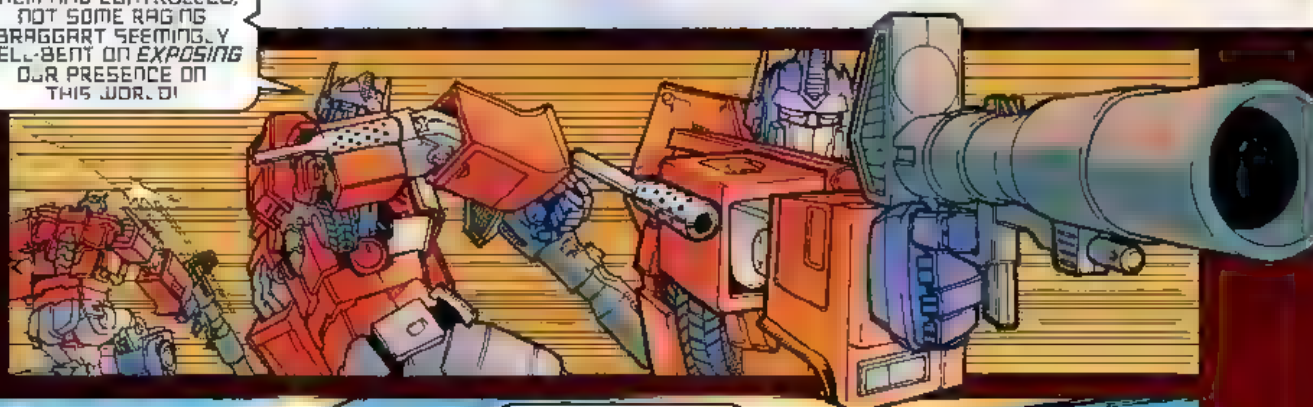
CHUUM CHUUM

IT SEEMS TO
ME, MEGATRON



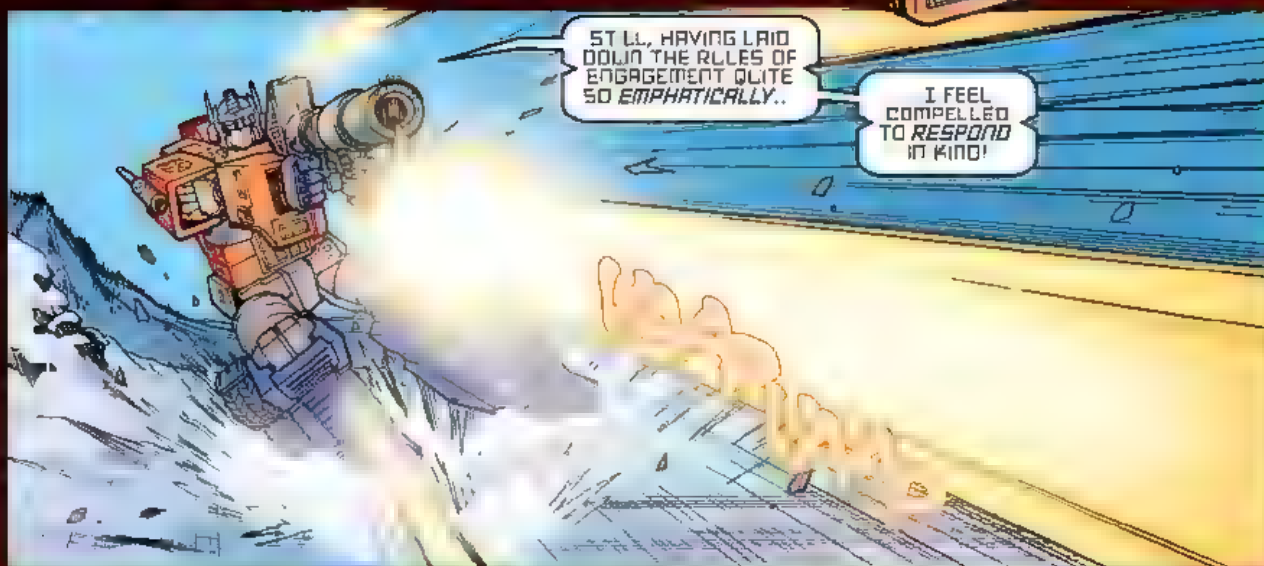
ALL THAT
POWER'S GONE
TO YOUR HEAD!

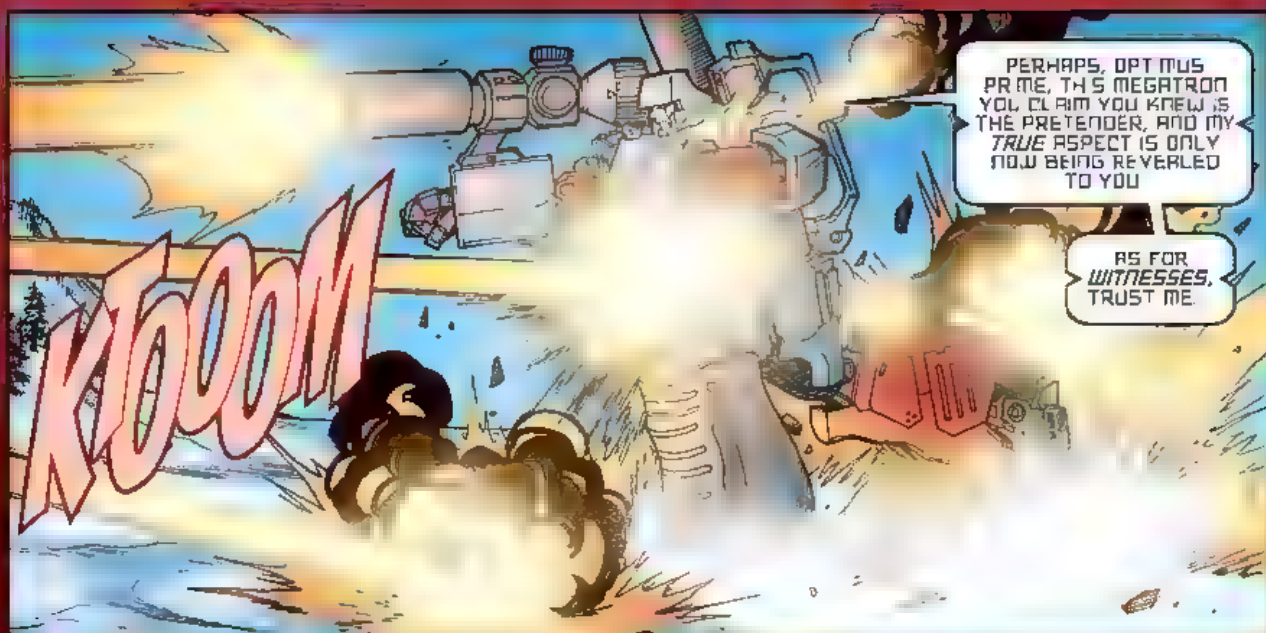
THE MEGATRON I
KNEW WAS MEASURED,
CALM AND CONTROLLED.
NOT SOME RAGING
BRAGGART SEEMINGLY
HELL-BENT ON EXPOSING
OUR PRESENCE ON
THIS WORLD!



STILL, HAVING LAID
DOWN THE RULES OF
ENGAGEMENT QUITE
SO EMPHATICALLY..

I FEEL
COMPELLED
TO RESPOND
IN KIND!





PERHAPS, OPTIMUS PRIME, THIS MEGATRON YOU CLAIM YOU KNEW IS THE PRETENDER, AND MY TRUE ASPECT IS ONLY NOW BEING REVEALED TO YOU

AS FOR WITNESSES, TRUST ME



THERE WILL BE NONE



UHH! YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW WHAT TO SAY

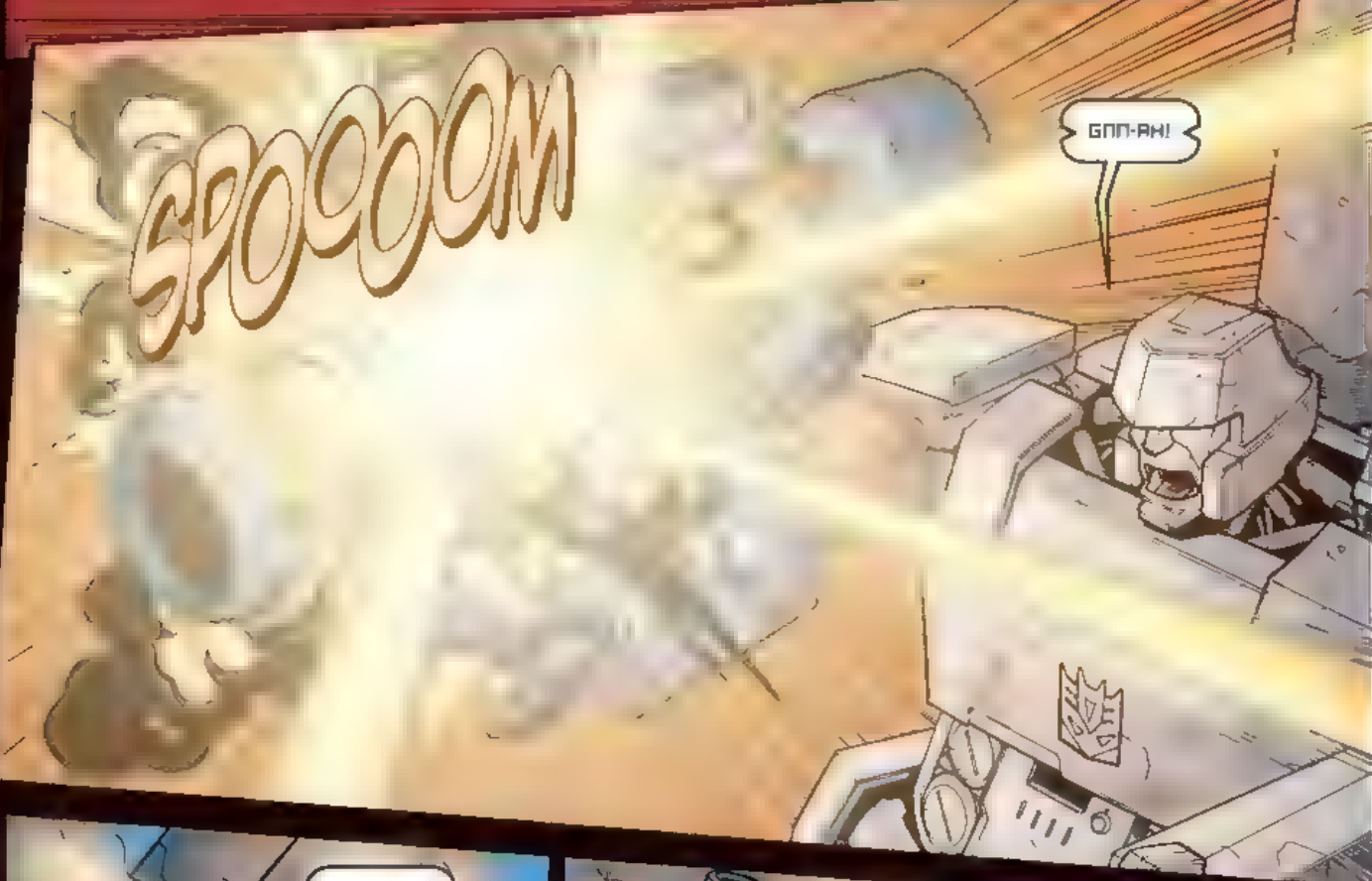
ZRAKT



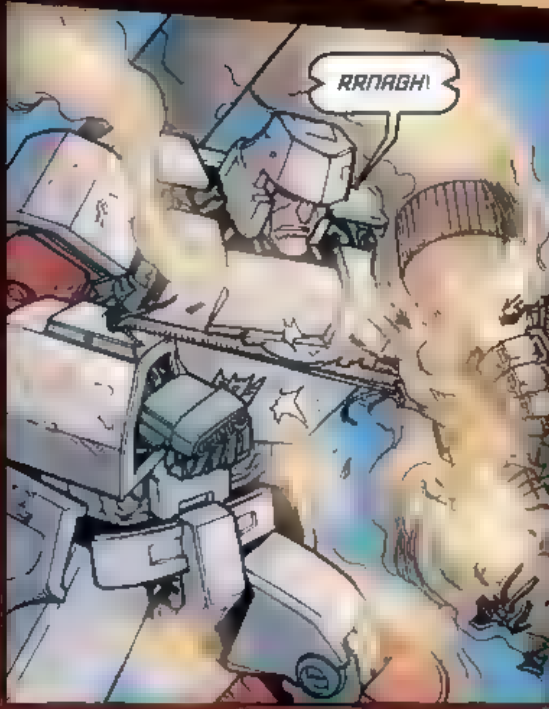


TO BRING OUT
THE BEST IN ME!

SPUT



GNN-AH!

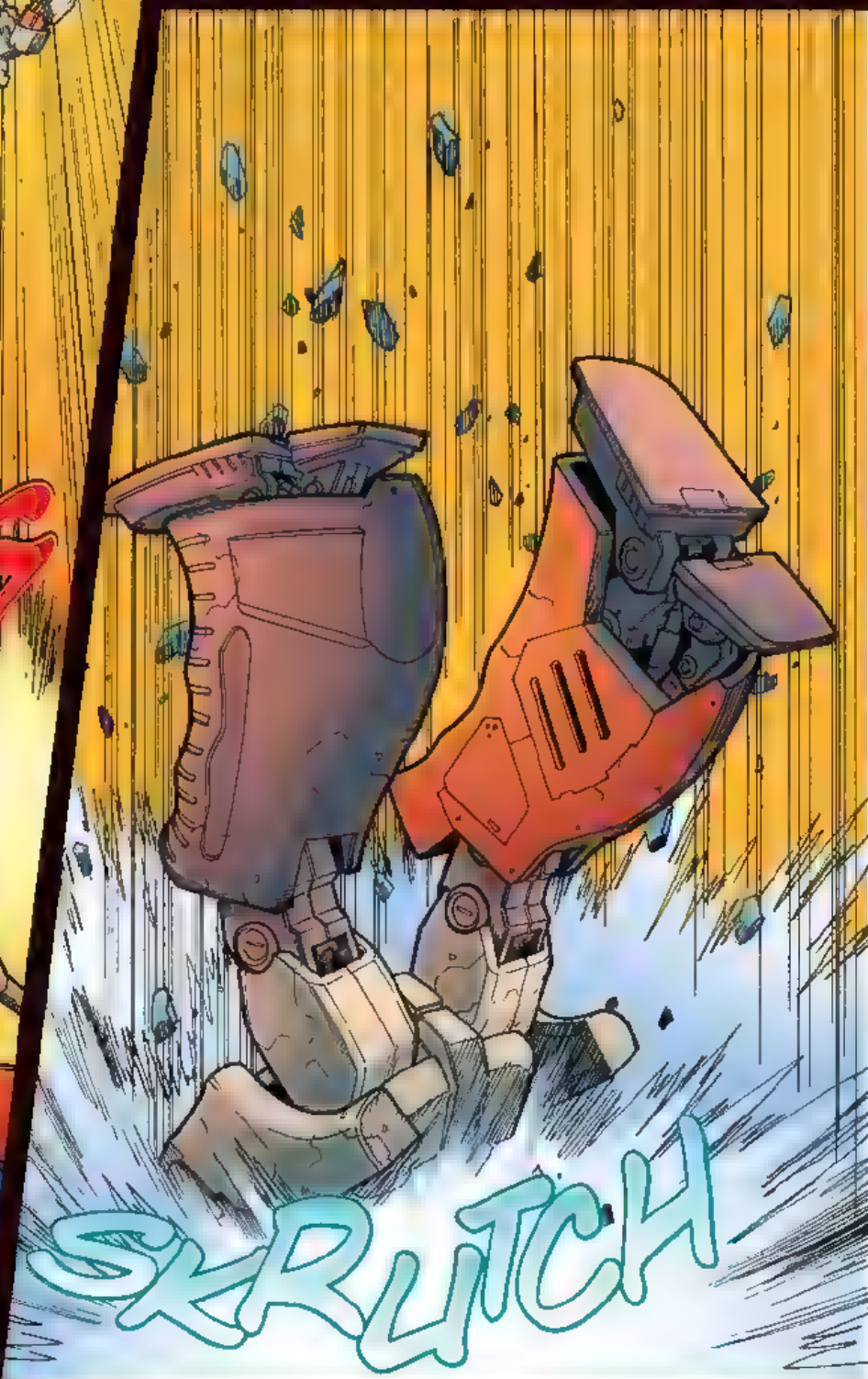
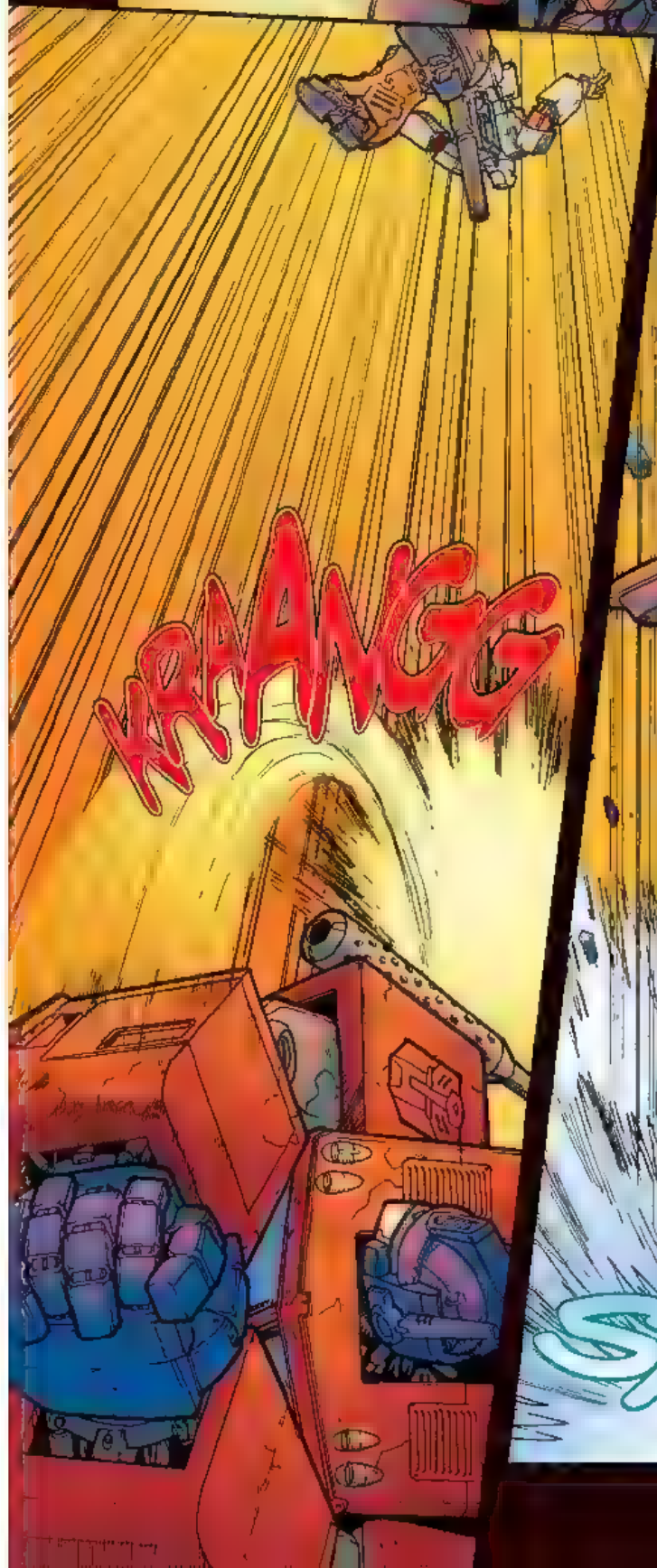
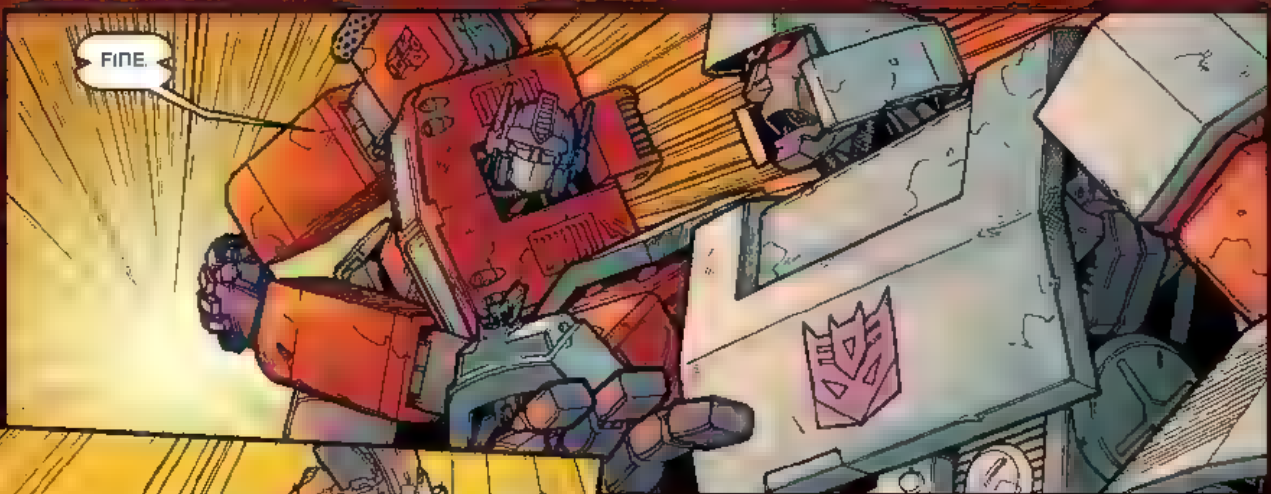


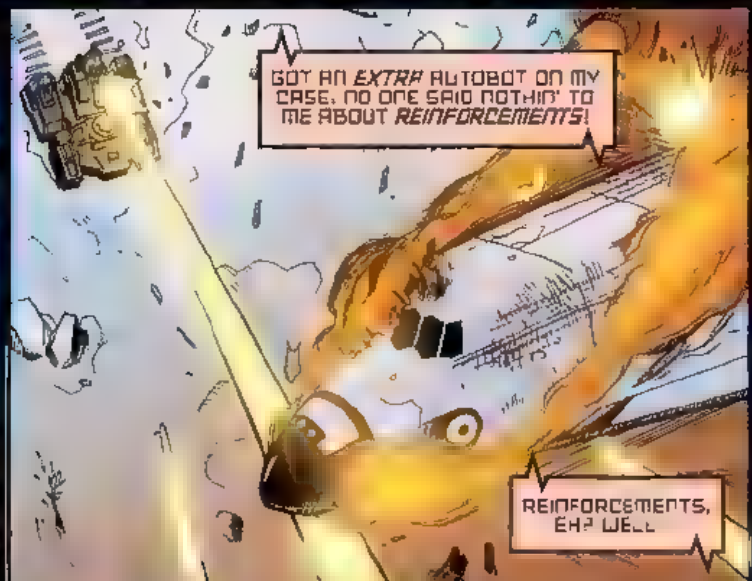
RRNAGH!

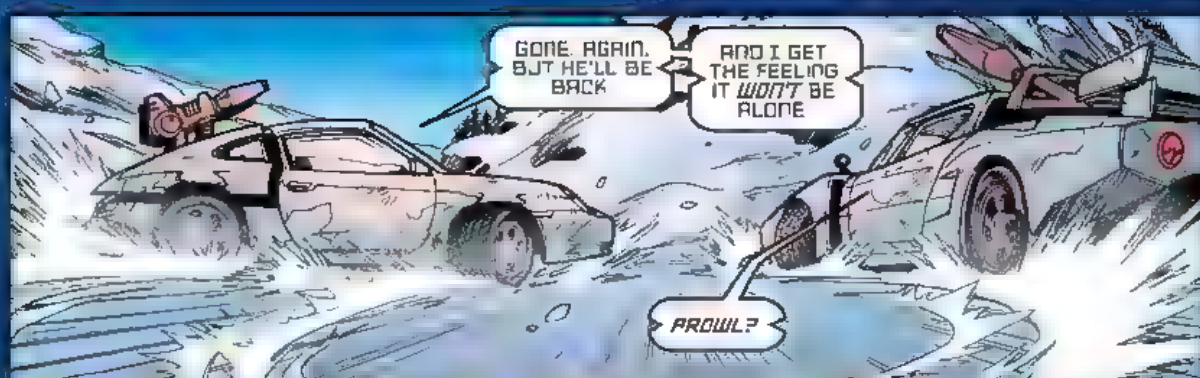


I NEED NO WEAPONS
TO KILL YOU, PRIME

BARE HANDS
WILL SUFFICE!



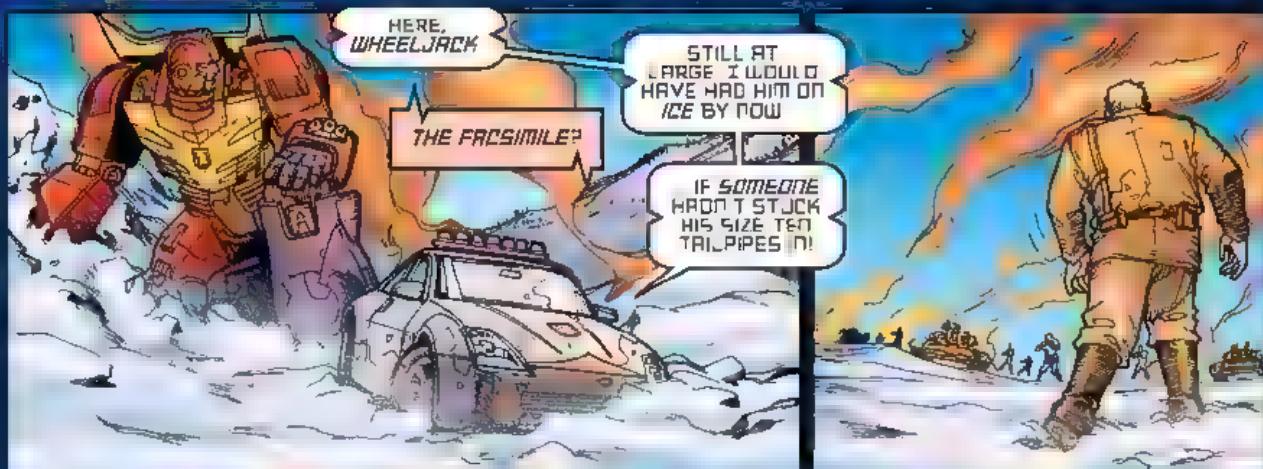




GONE AGAIN.
BUT HE'LL BE
BACK

AND I GET
THE FEELING
IT WON'T BE
ALONE

PROWL?

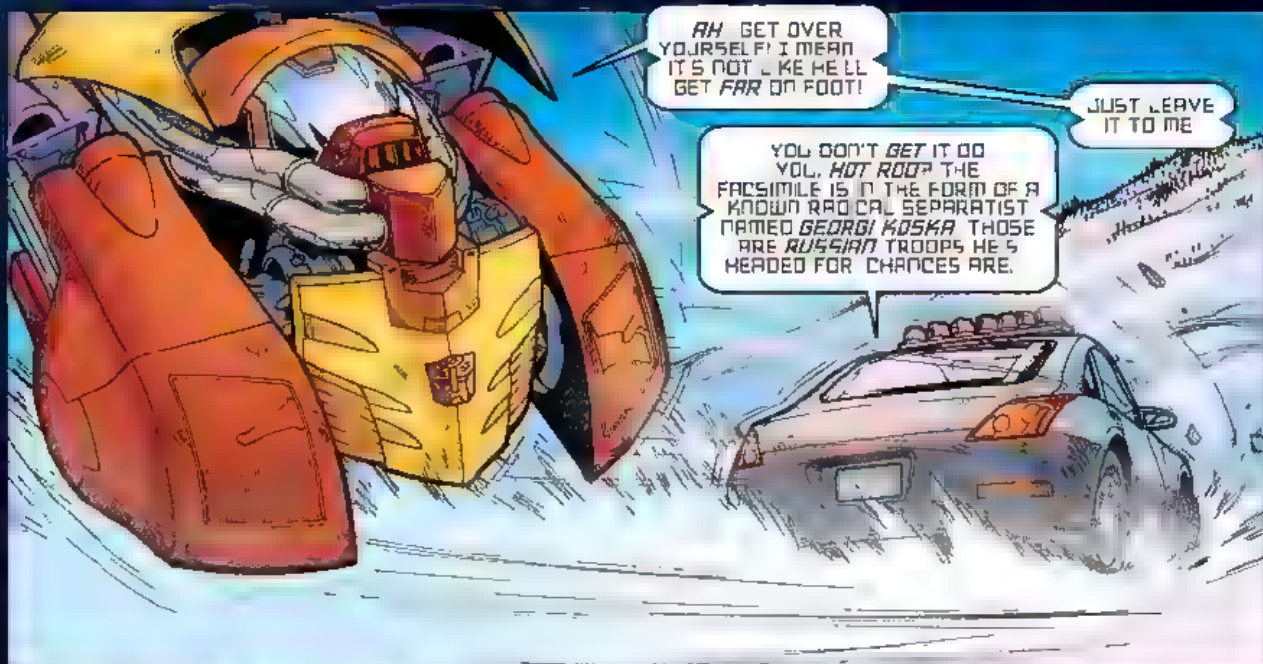


HERE,
WHEELJACK

THE FACSIMILE?

STILL AT
LARGE I WOULD
HAVE HAD HIM ON
ICE BY NOW

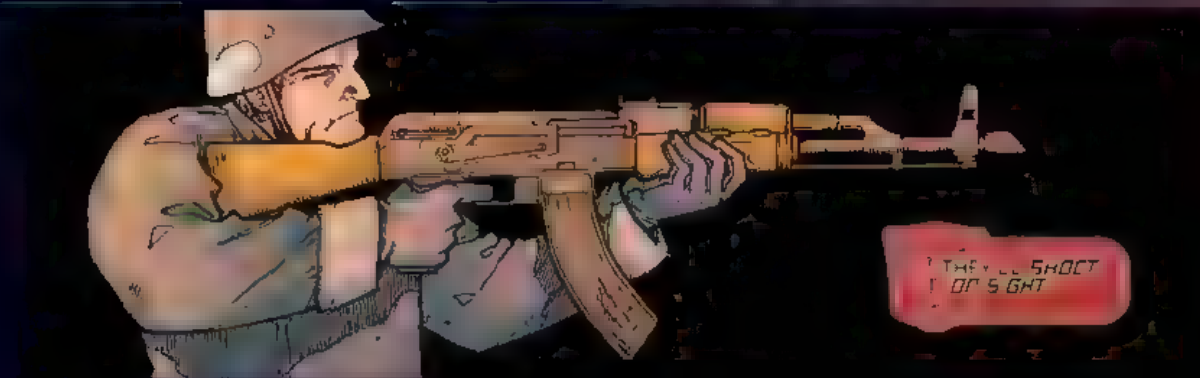
IF SOMEONE
HADN'T STUCK
HIS SIZE TEN
TAILPIES IN!



AH GET OVER
YOURSELF! I MEAN
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'LL
GET FAR ON FOOT!

JUST LEAVE
IT TO ME

YOU DON'T GET IT DO
YOU, HOT ROD? THE
FACSIMILE IS IN THE FORM OF A
KNOWN RADICAL SEPARATIST
NAMED GEORGI KOSKA. THOSE
ARE RUSSIAN TROOPS HE'S
HEADED FOR CHANCES ARE.



THEY'LL SHOOT
IN 5 GMT

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG

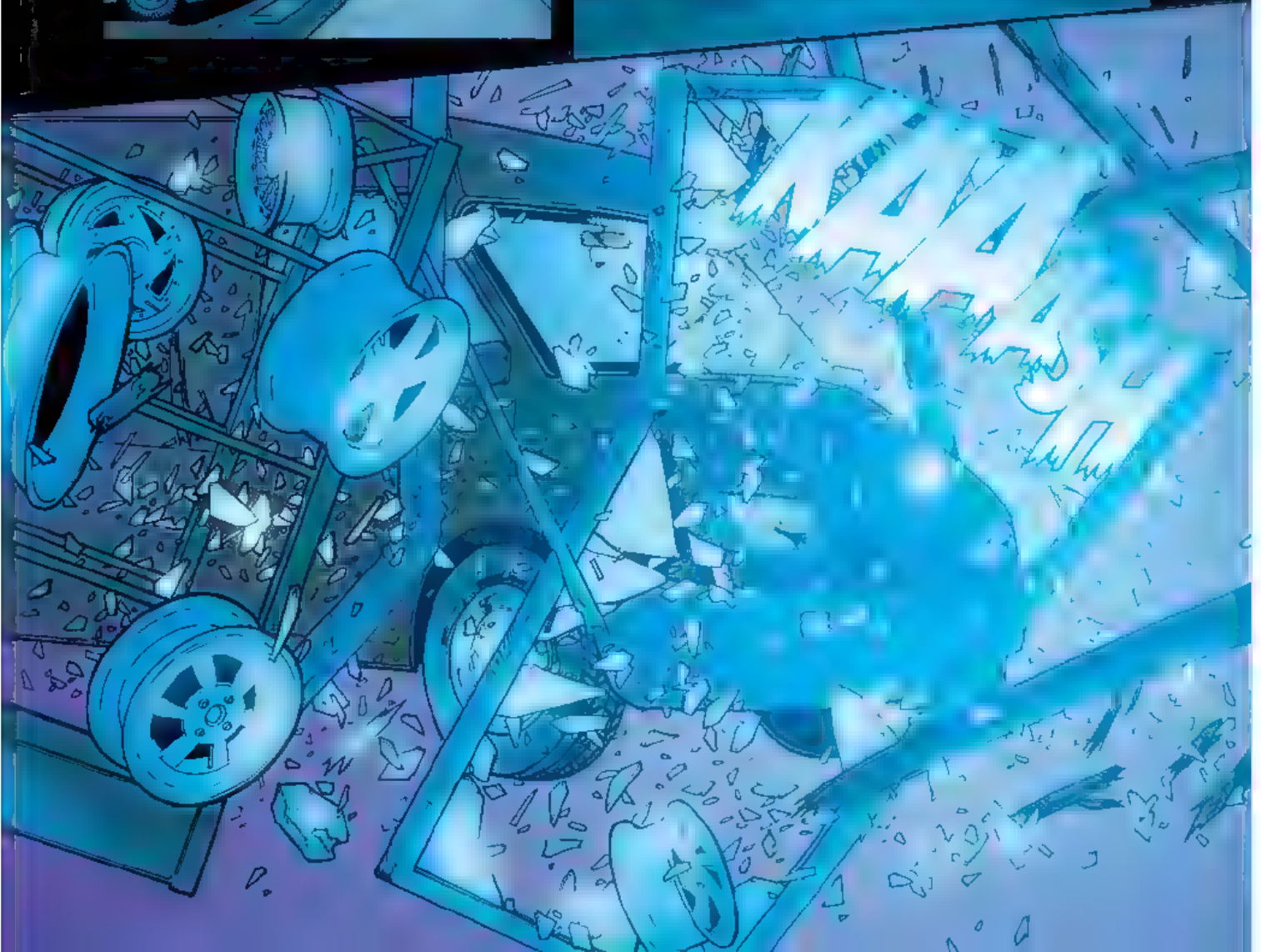
AGREED TEN-MINUTE
INTERVALS. WE SAID
ONE OF THEM SHOULD
HAVE SIGNALLED JS

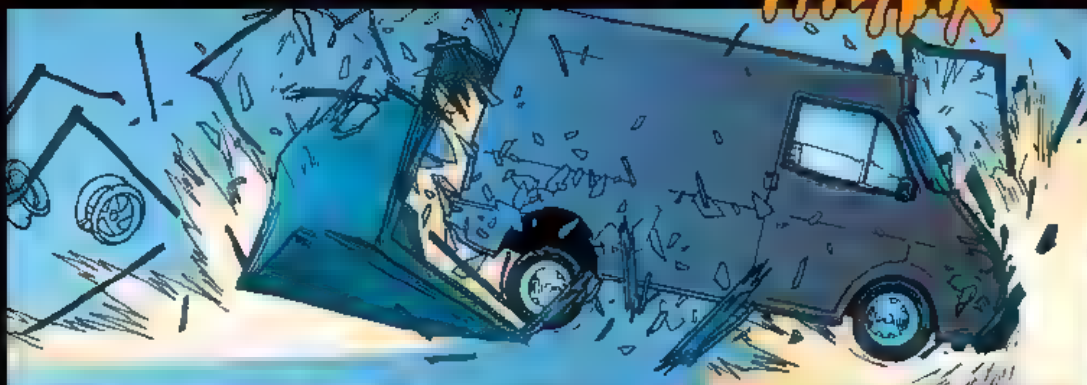
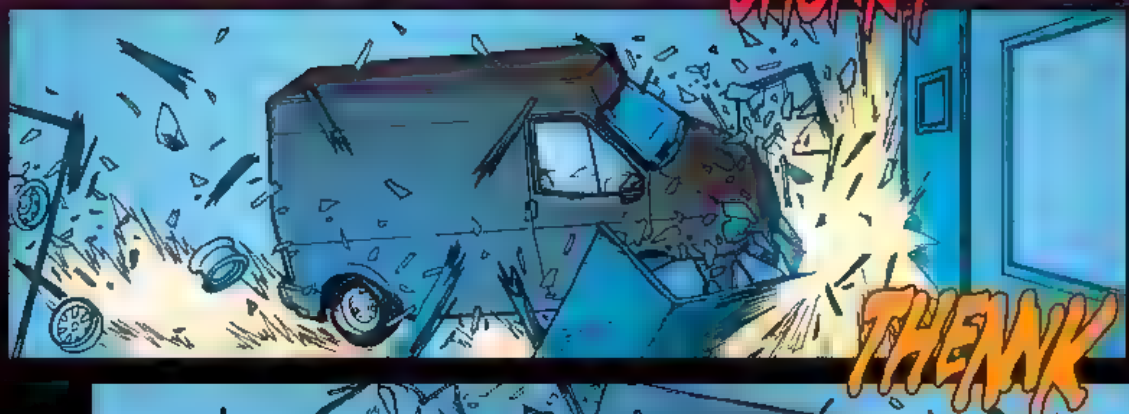
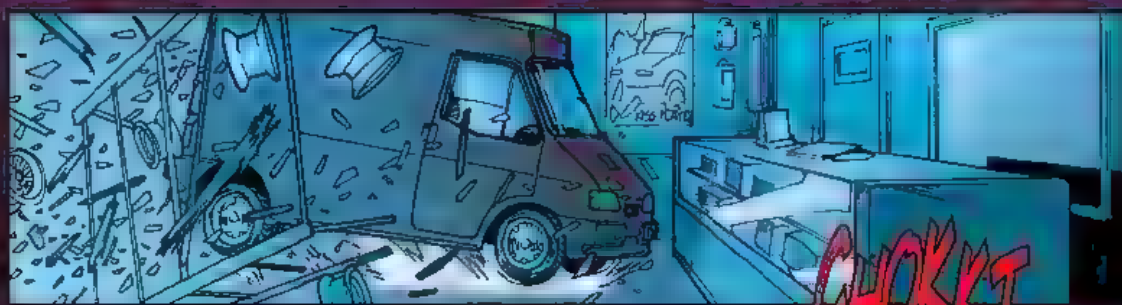
OF COURSE, THEY
COULD JUST BE
IGNORING EVERY-
THING WE TOLD THEM
THEY'RE RATHER, AH,
FREE-SPIRITED

OR THEY COULD
BE INCAPACITATED
OR DEAD

I'M GOING IN

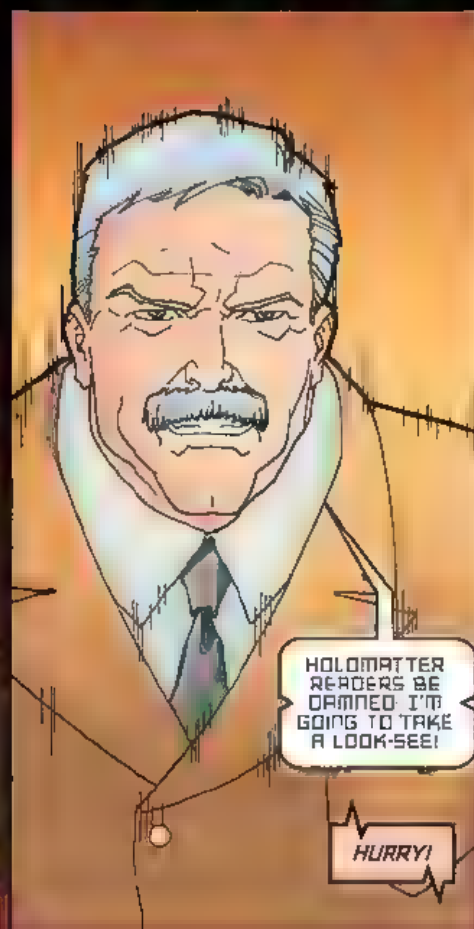
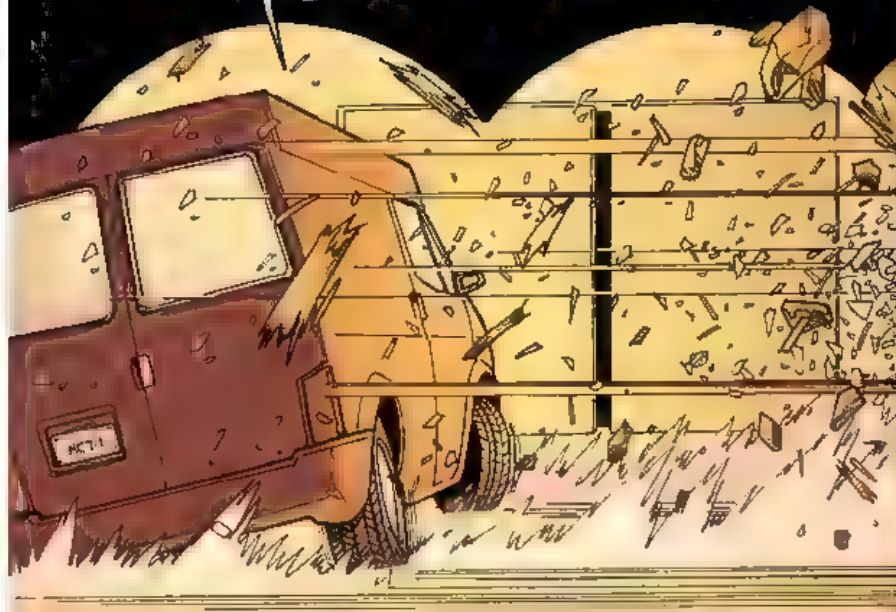
SCREAM





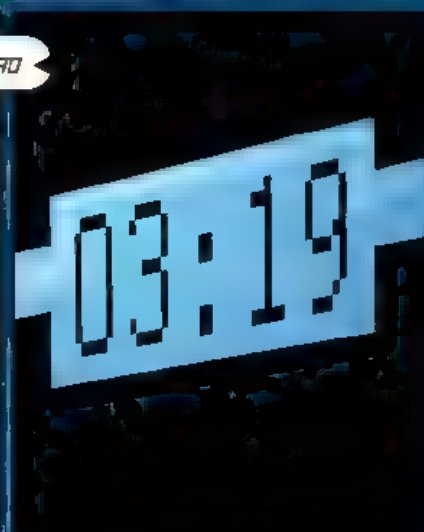
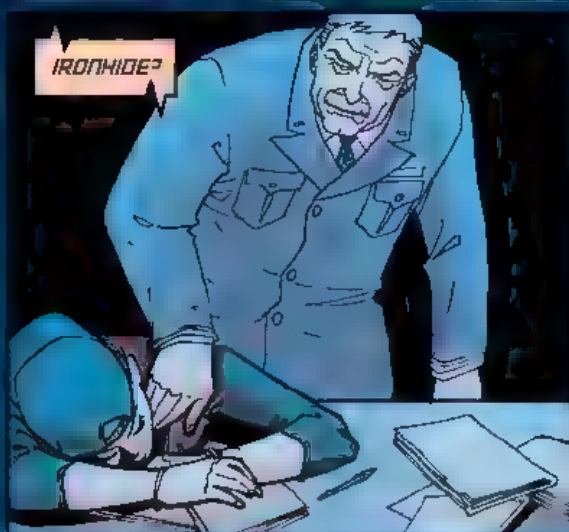
RATCHET-
THERE'S SOME
KNO OF
CONCEALED
ENTRANCE BACK
HERE

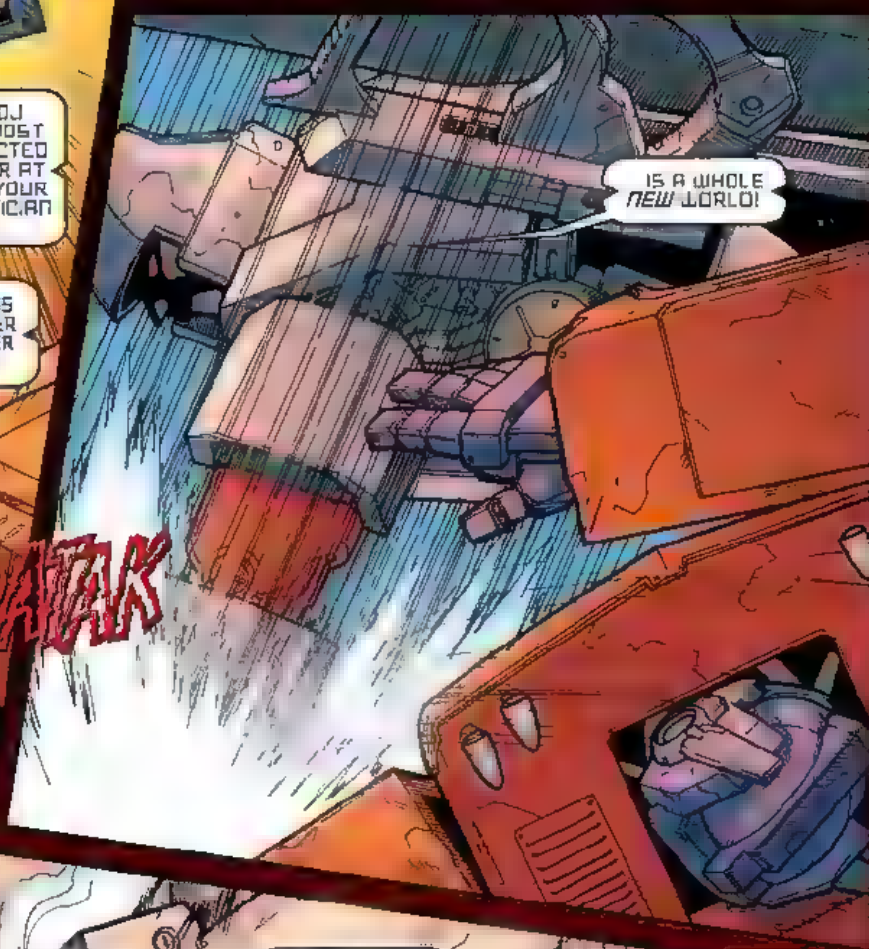
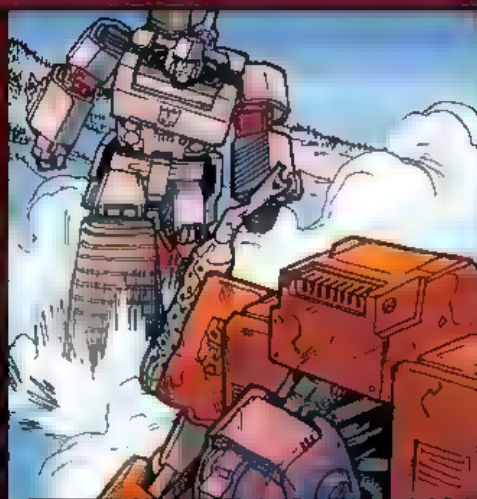
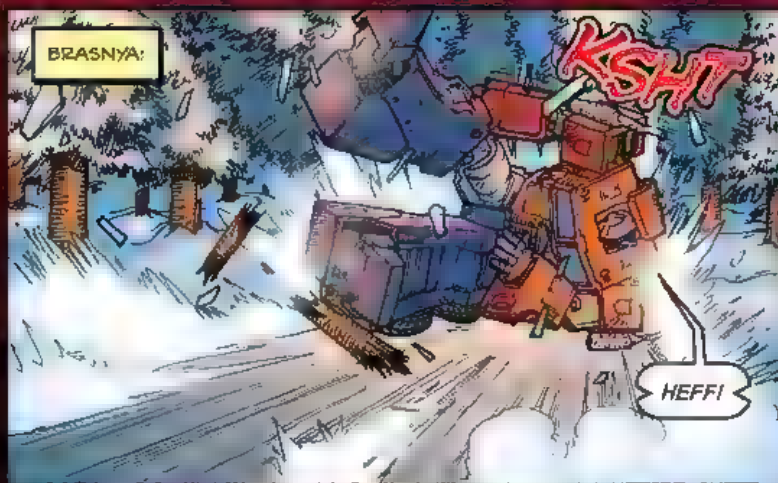
ACCORDING TO
MY SENSOR
PROBES, IT LEADS
NOWHERE A BIG,
BLACK NOTHING

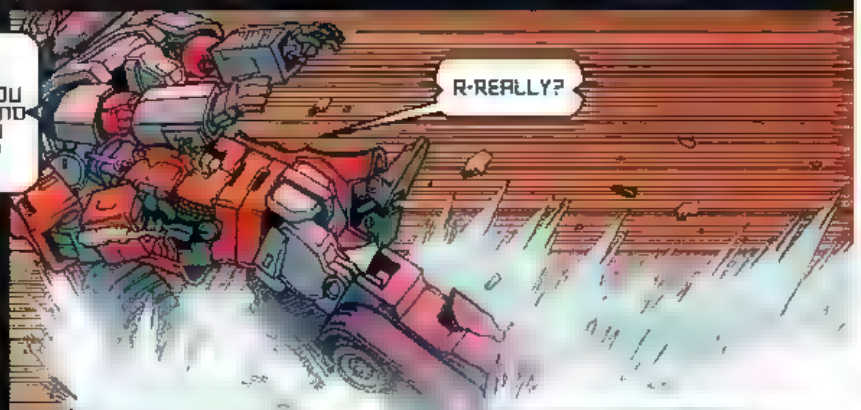
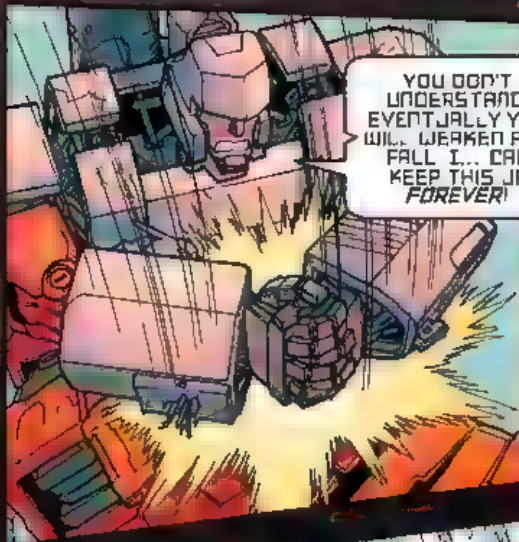
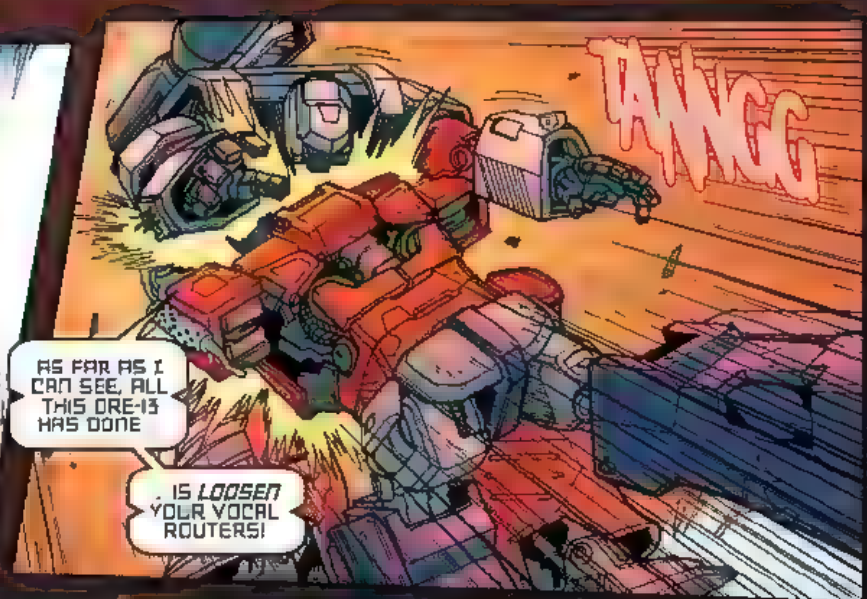


HOLOMATTER
READERS BE
DAMNED I'M
GOING TO TAKE
A LOOK-SEE!

HURRY!



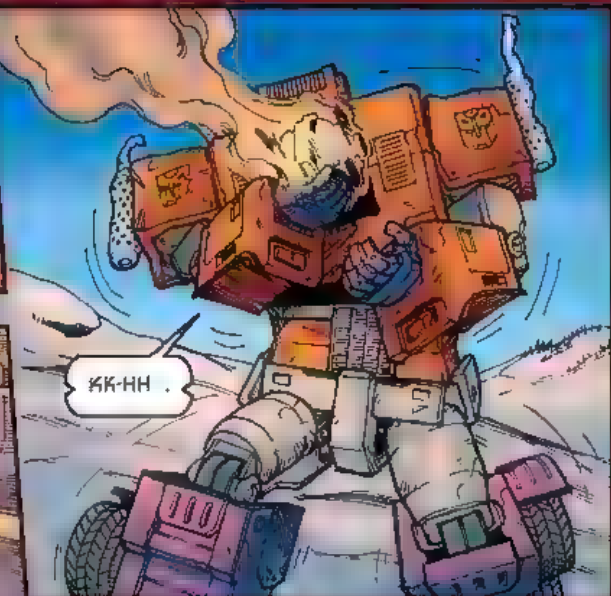




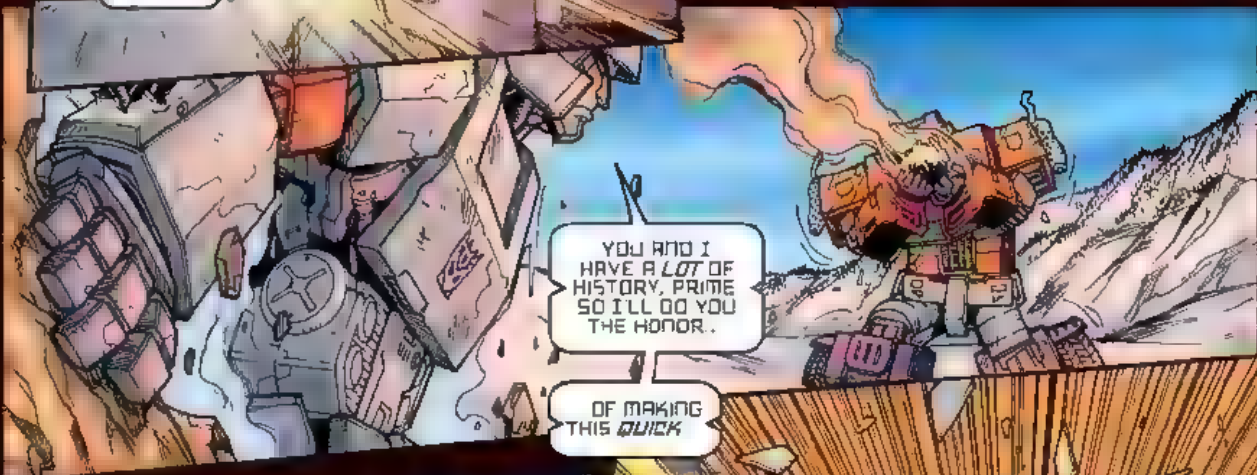
YOU WON'T
BELIEVE THE
THINGS I CAN
DO NOW!



PUURHI

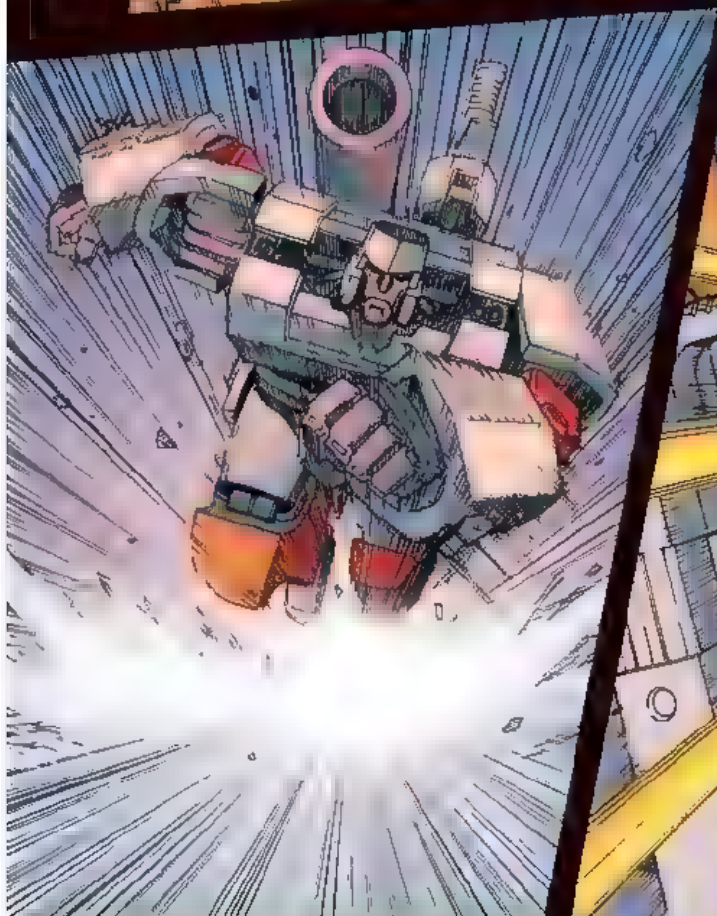


KK-HH

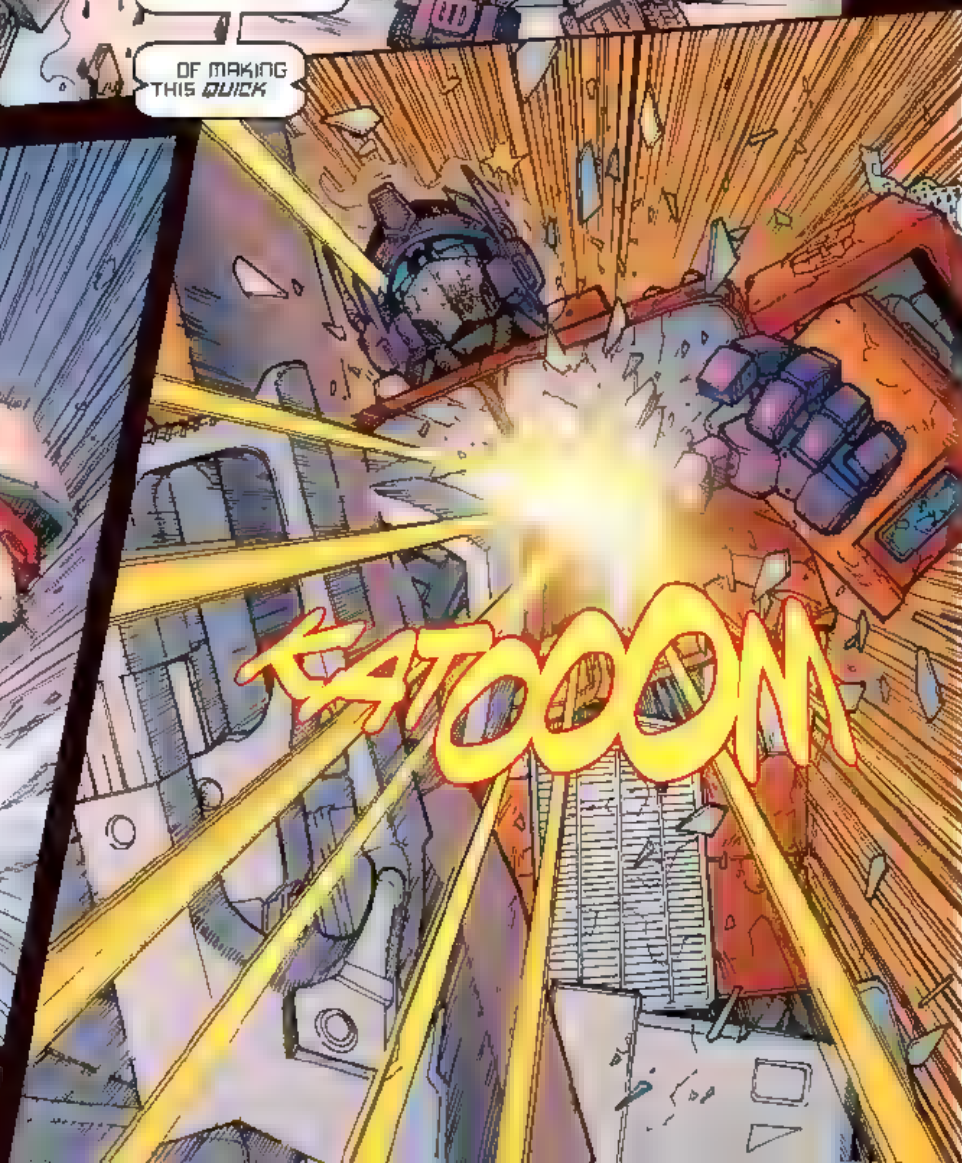


YOU AND I
HAVE A LOT OF
HISTORY, PRIME
SO I'LL DO YOU
THE HONOR.

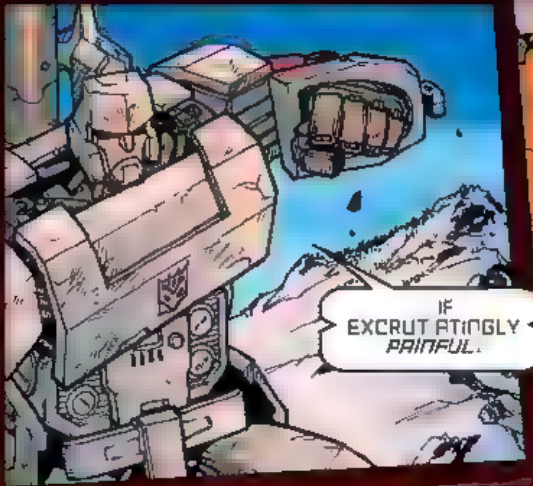
OF MAKING
THIS QUICK



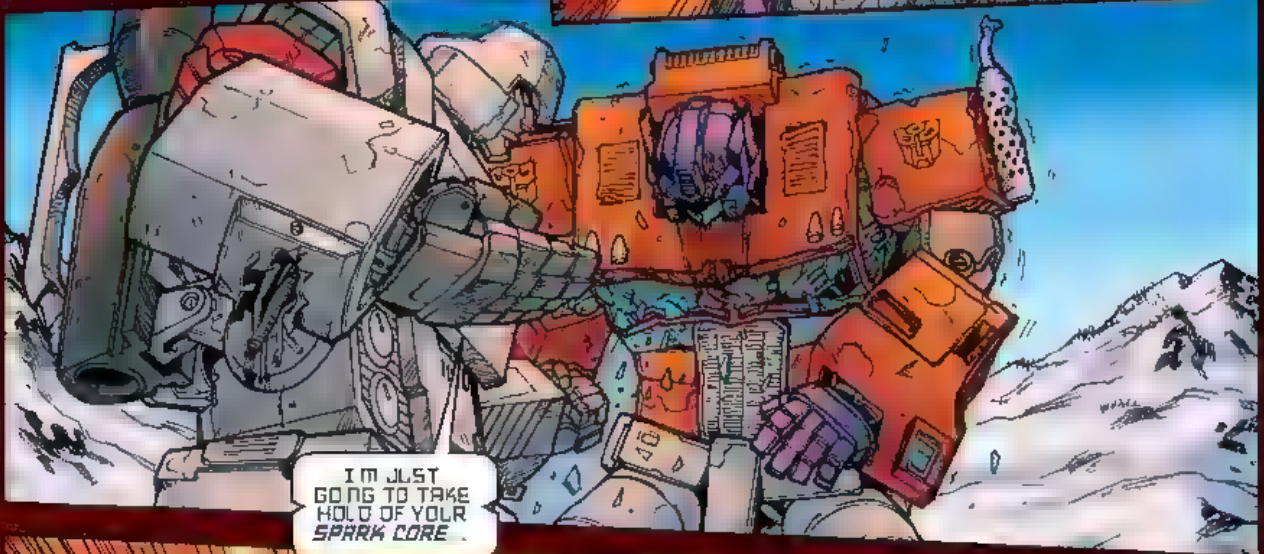
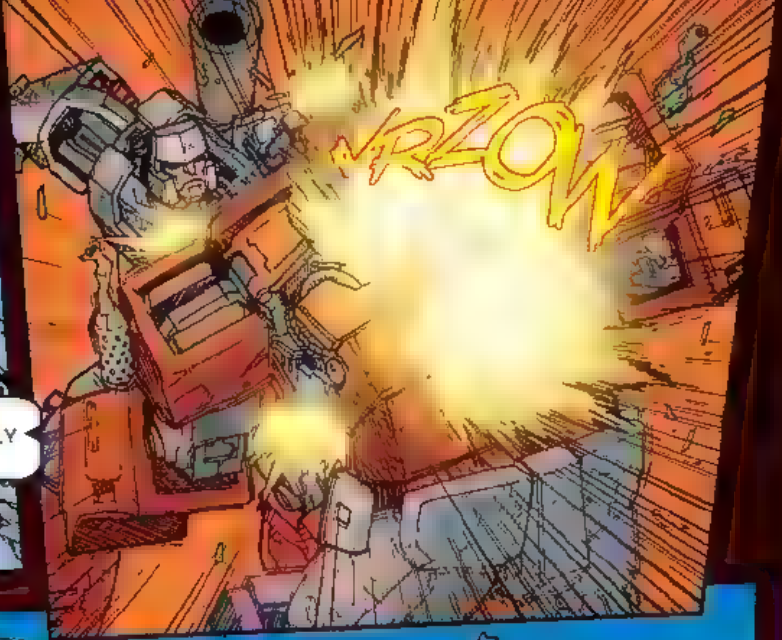
KAASH!



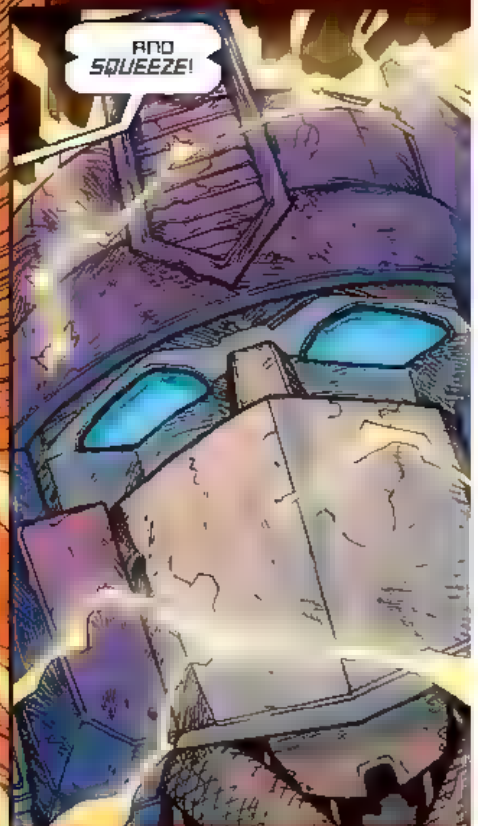
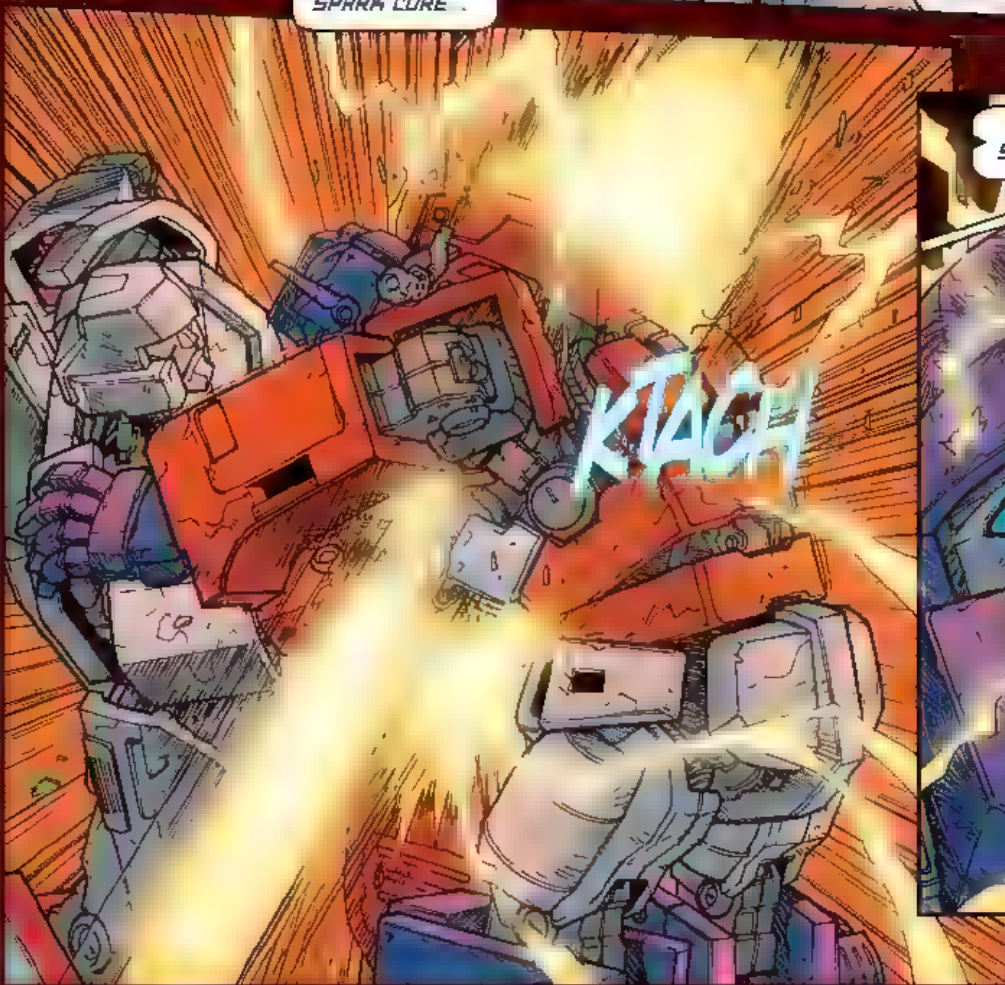
KAASH!



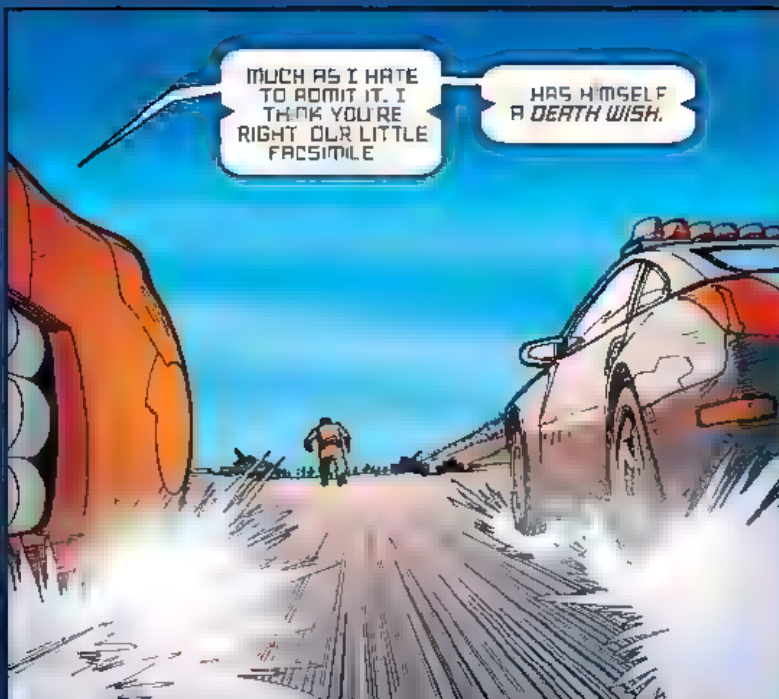
IF
EXCRUCIATINGLY
PAINFUL.



I'M JUST
GOING TO TAKE
HOLD OF YOUR
SPARK CORE.



AND
SQUEEZE!



MUCH AS I HATE
TO ADMIT IT, I
THINK YOU'RE
RIGHT OUR LITTLE
FACSIMILE

HAS HIMSELF
A DEATH WISH.



LIBERTY
FOR BRASNYA!
DEATH TO THE
INVADERS!



ONE OF US LL HAVE
TO RUN INTERFERENCE

ER, F THAT'S
OPERATIONAL
JARGON FOR
GETTING SHOT
AT I VOTE
YOU

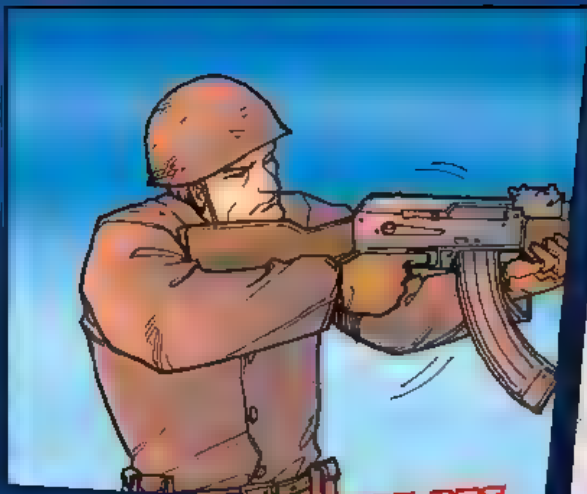
YEAH, THANKS



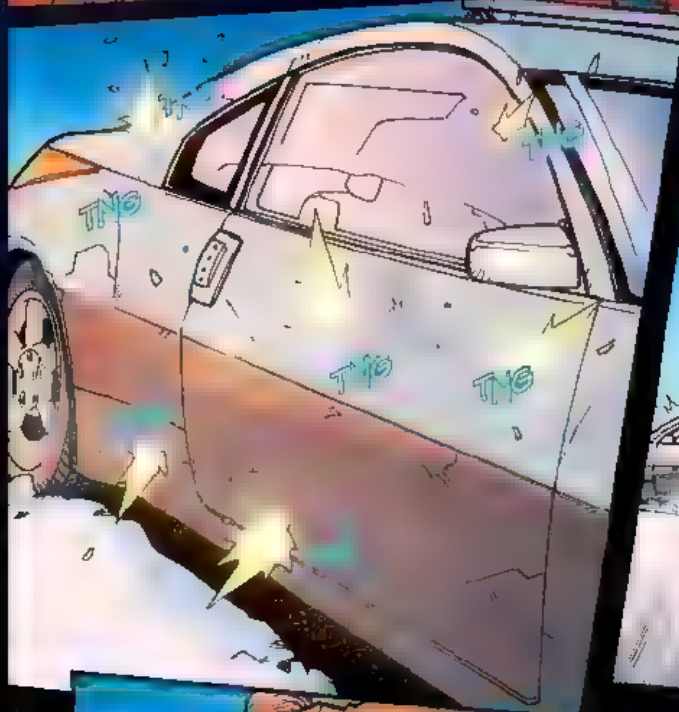
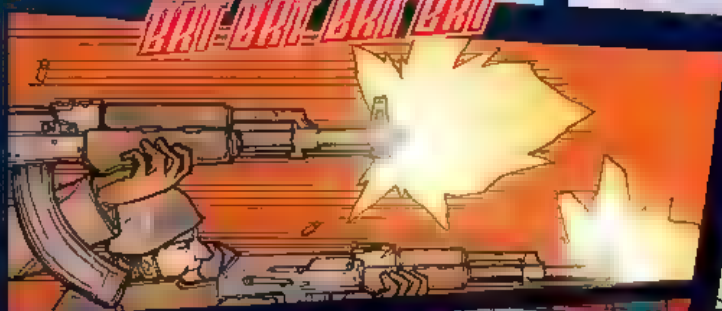
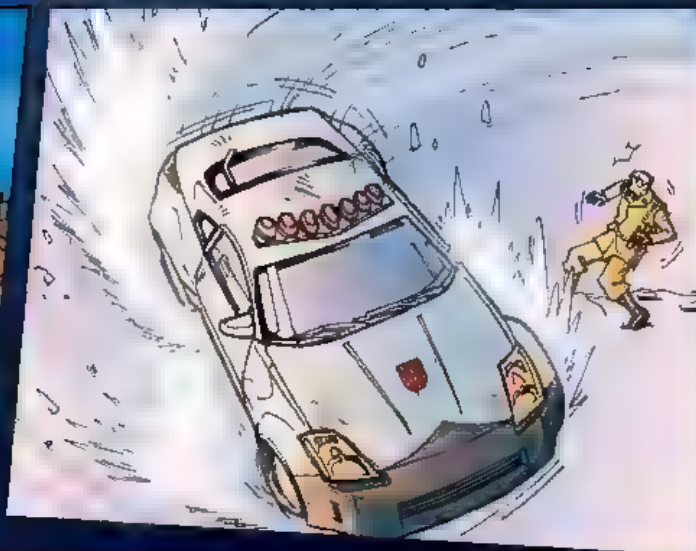
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR? THIS
MAN IS A KNOWN
AND DANGEROUS
TERRORIST!



FIRE AT
WILL!

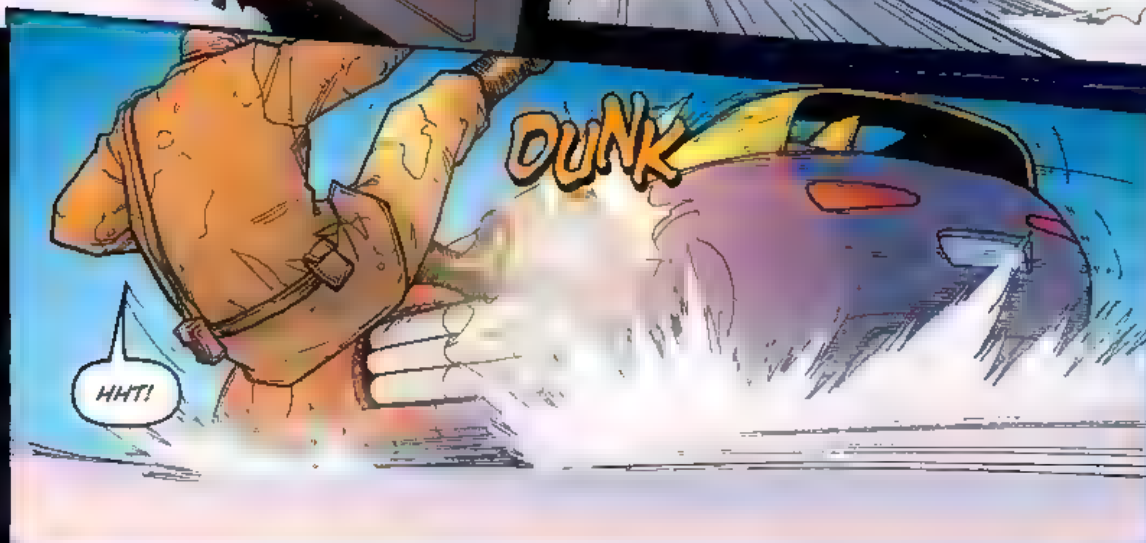


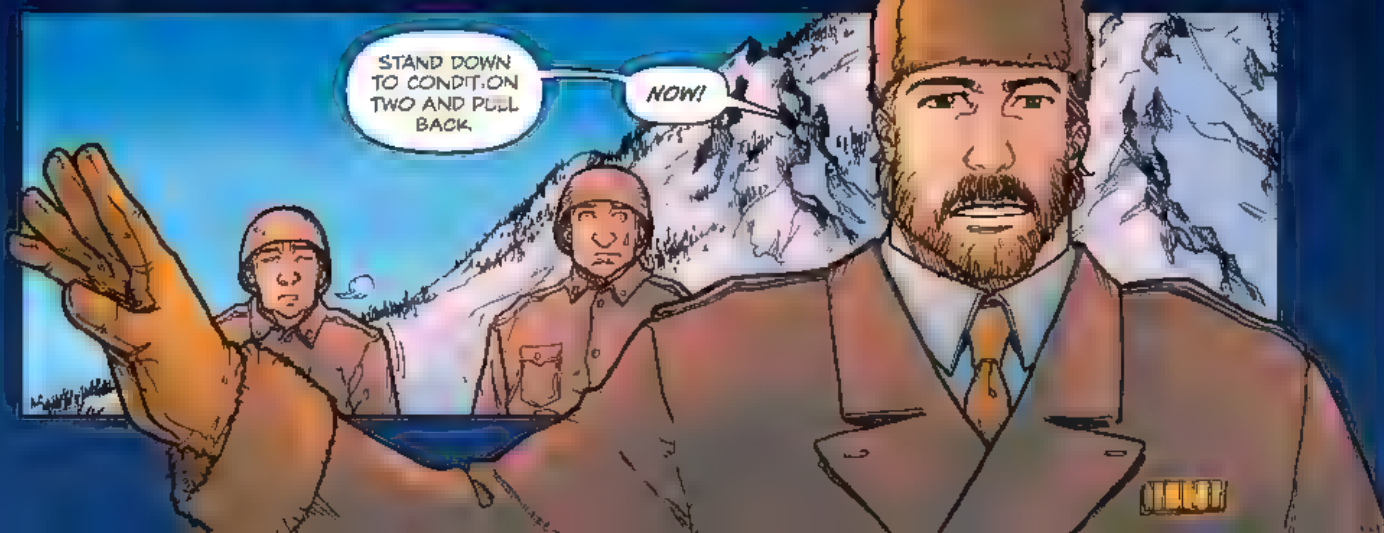
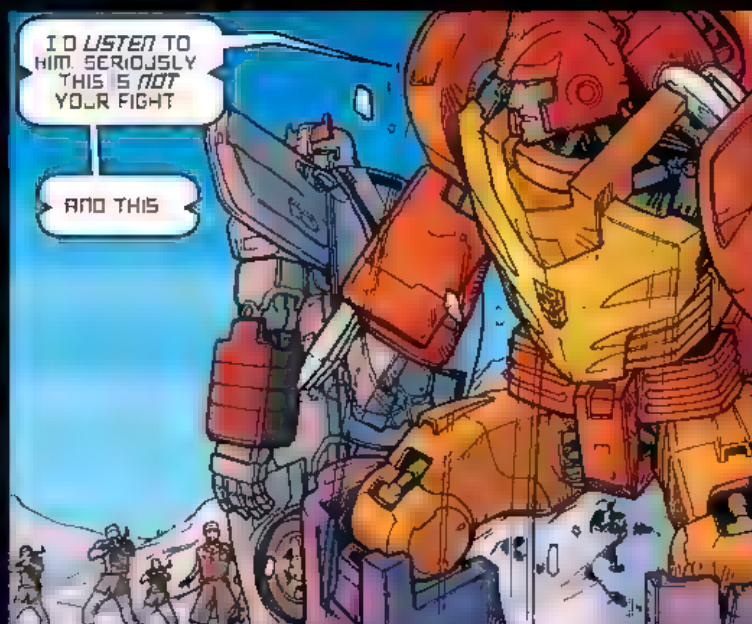
БЛТ-БЛТ-БЛТ-БЛТ

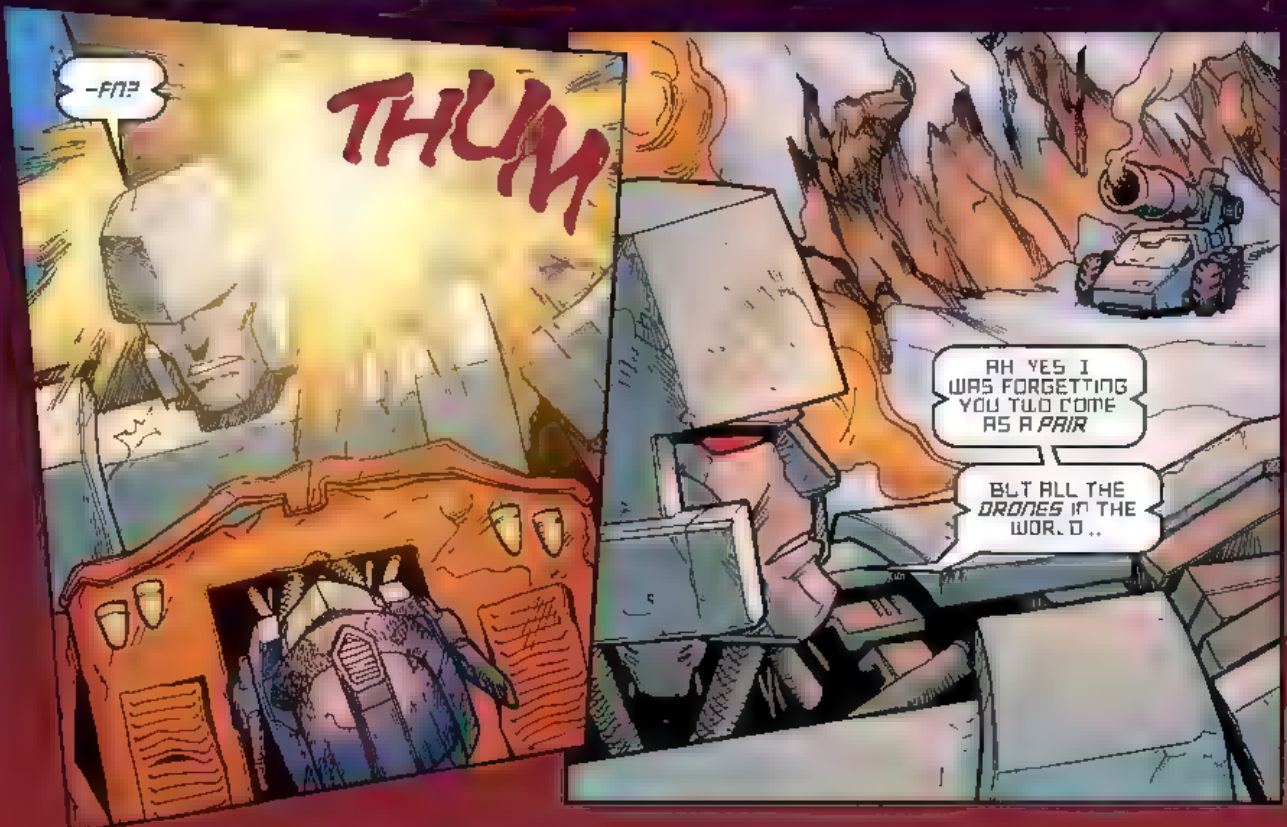
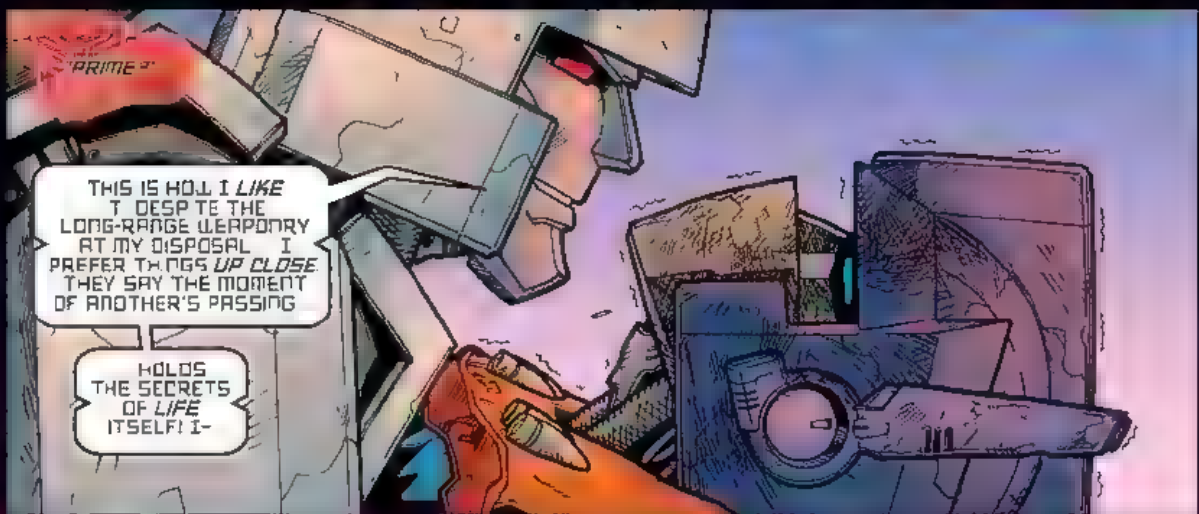
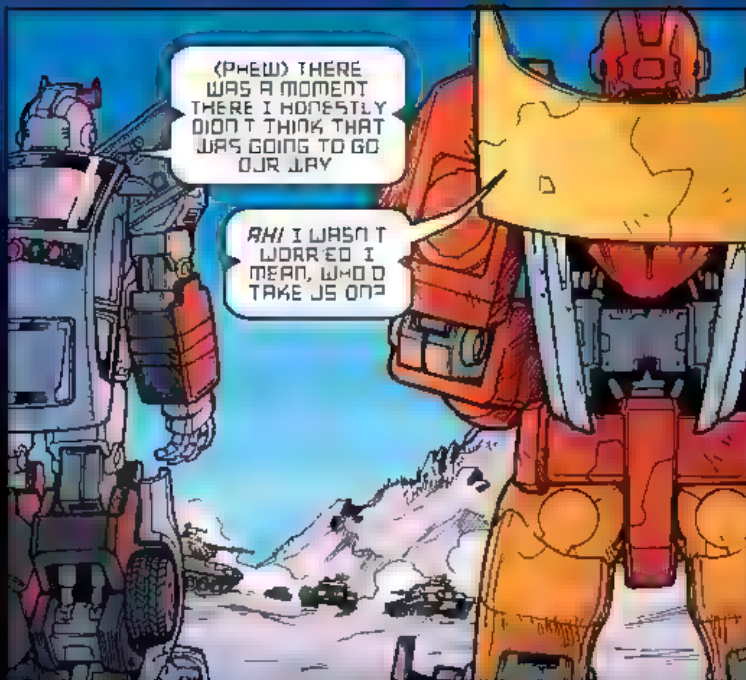


НН ПОМ,
НОТ РОД...

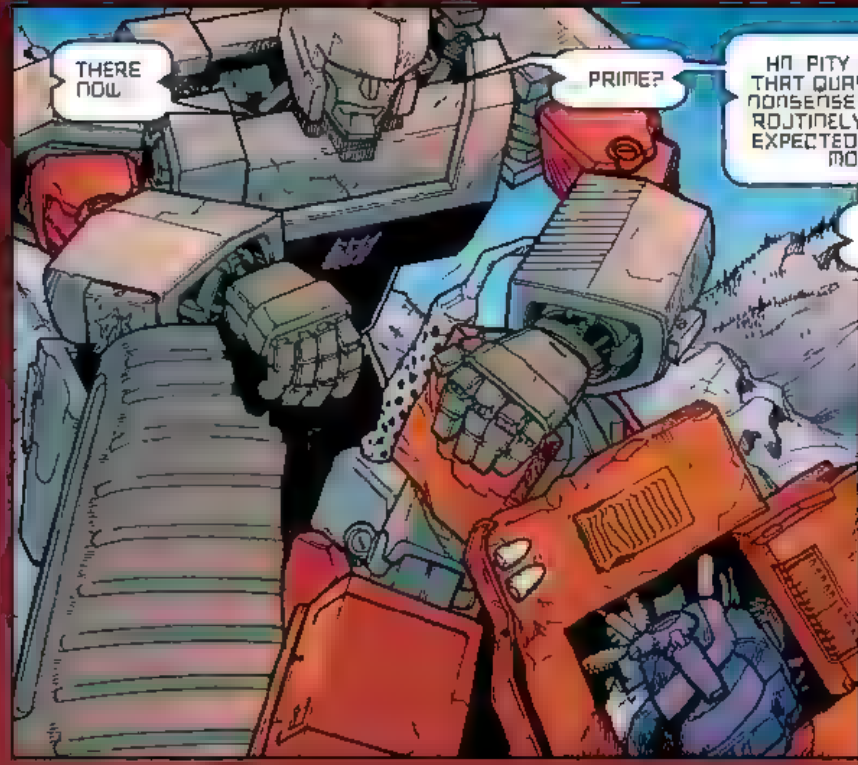
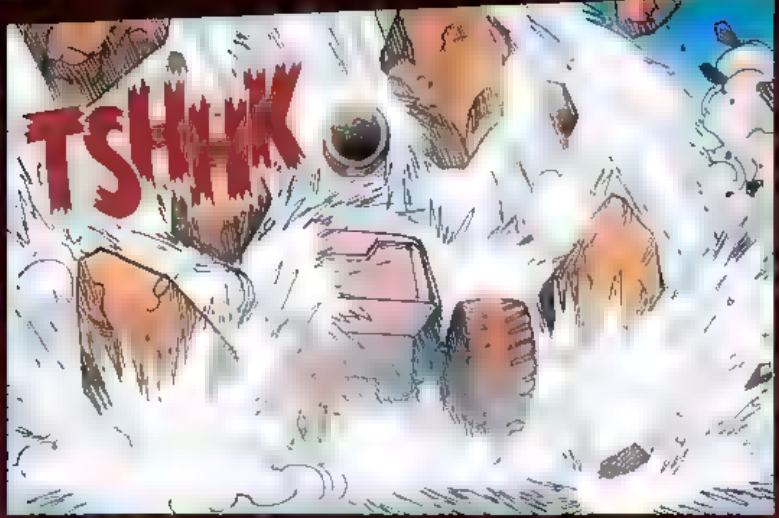
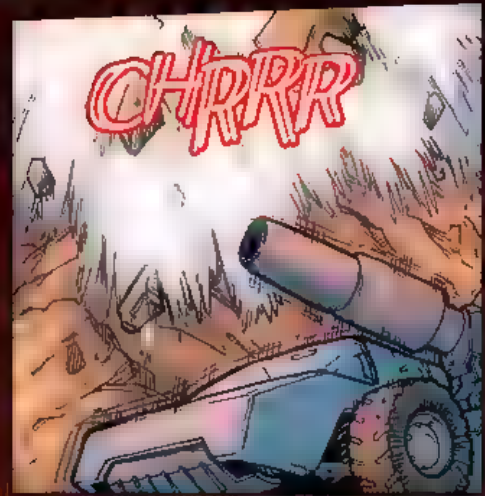
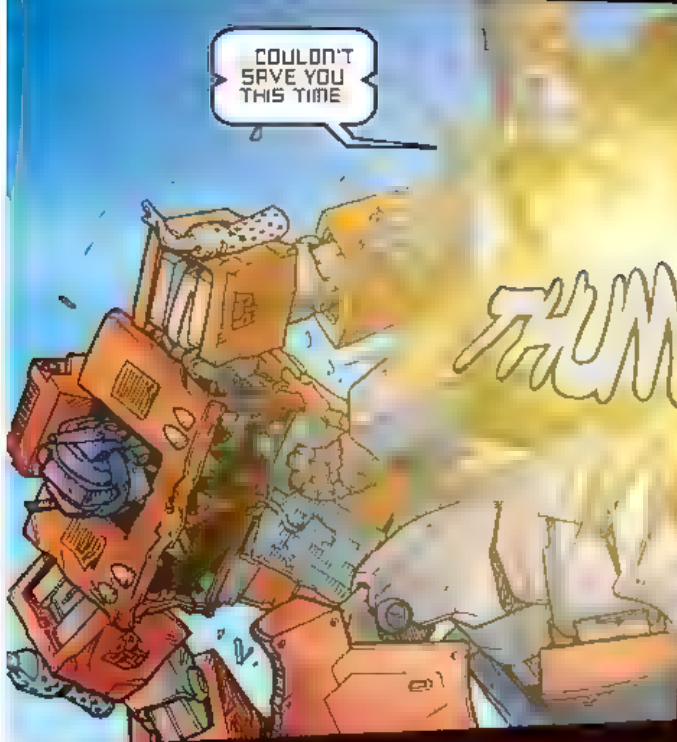
...ПОШ!







COULDN'T
SAVE YOU
THIS TIME



THERE
NOW

PRIME?

HA PITY GIVEN ALL
THAT QUASI-MYSTICAL
NONSENSE YOU PRIMES
ROUTINELY SPOUT, I'D
EXPECTED SOMETHING
MORE

...ENLIGHTENING.



(INTERLUDE) EUREKA, NEVADA

WHAT'S
GOING ON?
CLIVE?

PROFESSOR
GORING!

THANK GOODNESS
YOU'RE HERE! THEY'RE
TELLING US WE CAN'T GO
IN, THAT THE DIG'S BEEN
PLACED UNDER OFFICIAL
JURISDICTION.

OFFICIAL—?
BUT... WHAT ABOUT
OUR SPONSORS?
THE UNIVERSITY?

WHO'S IN
CHARGE
HERE?

NO IDEA.
NOT THE
COPS.

THEY'RE JUST
TO KEEP US OUT.
THE GUYS RUNNING
THE SHOW

...AREN'T
EXACTLY
FLASHING THEIR
CREDENTIALS!



TO BE CONTINUED...



THE TRANSFORMERS™

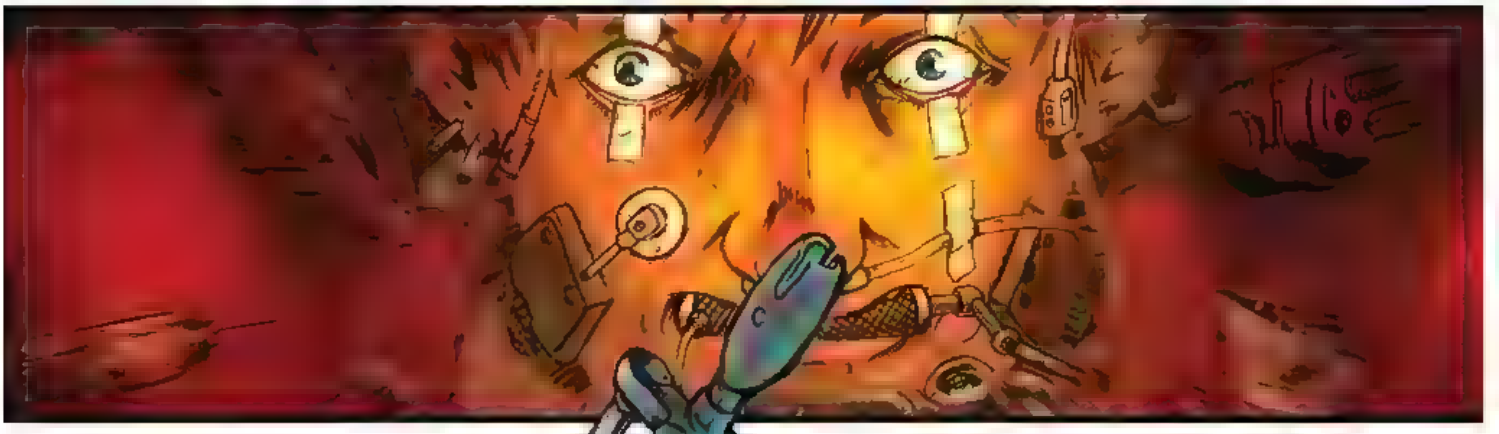
ESCALATION



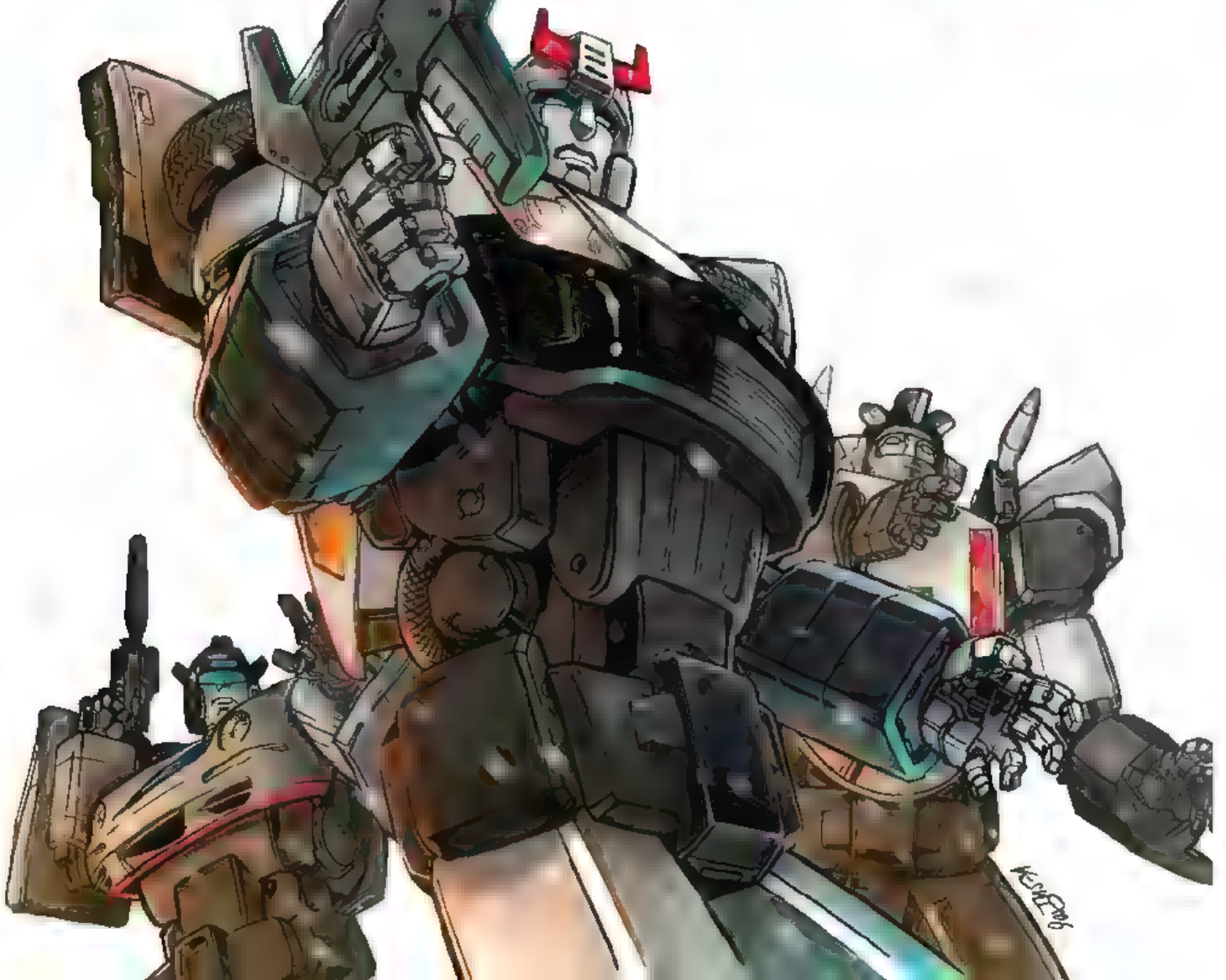


THE TRANSFORMERS™

FORMERS



ESCALATION

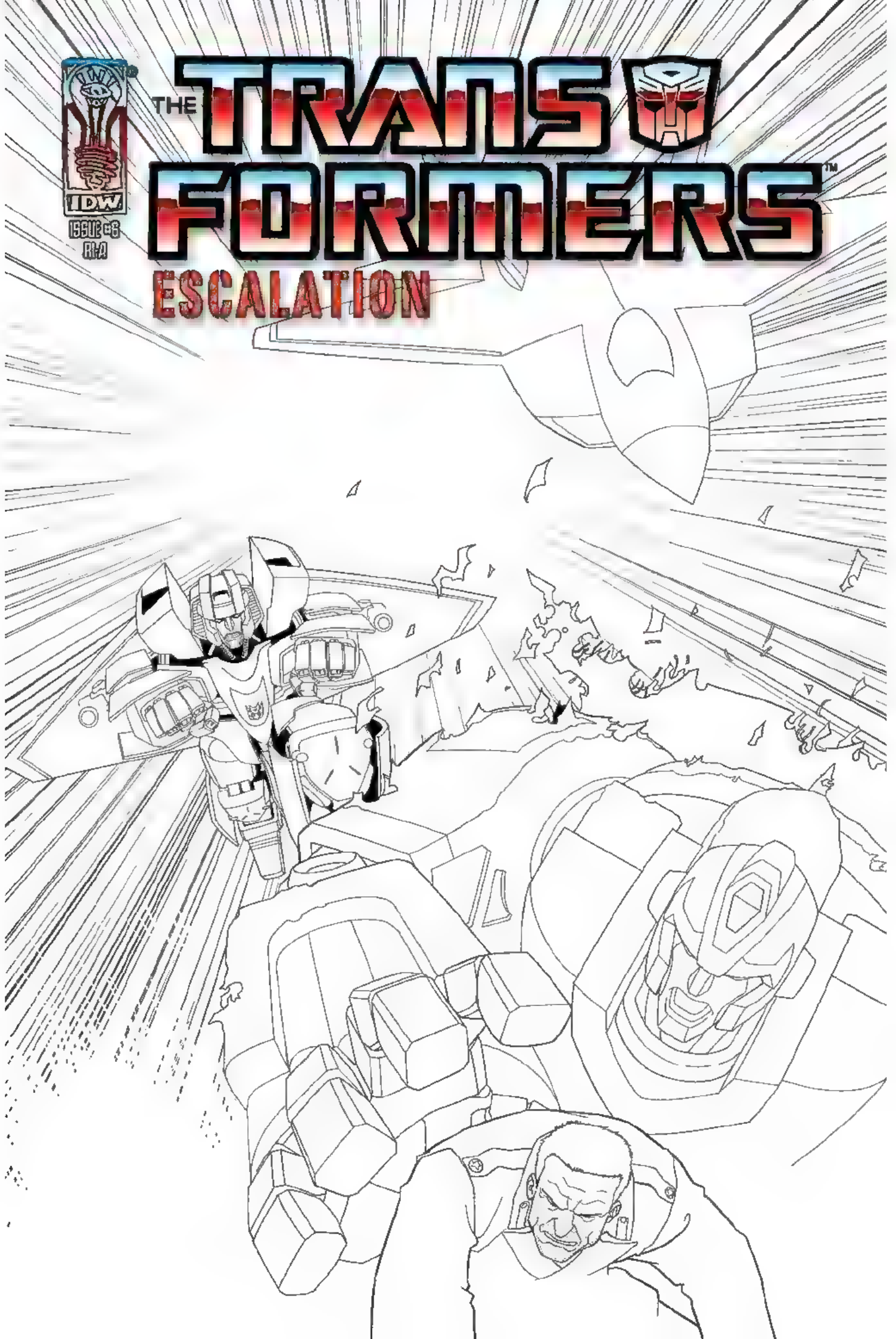




ISSUE 66
R1A

THE TRANSFORMERS

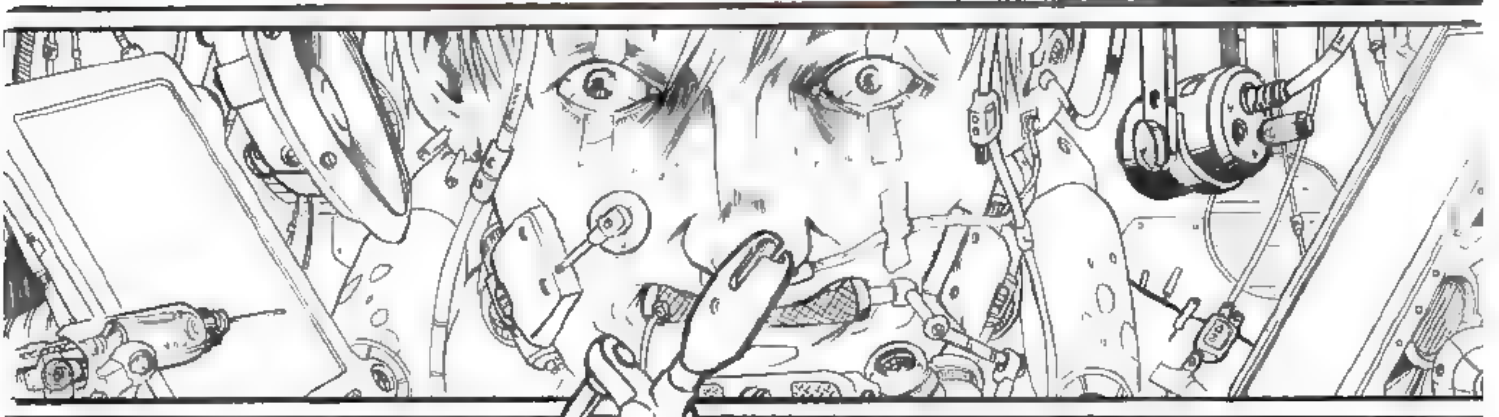
ESCALATION

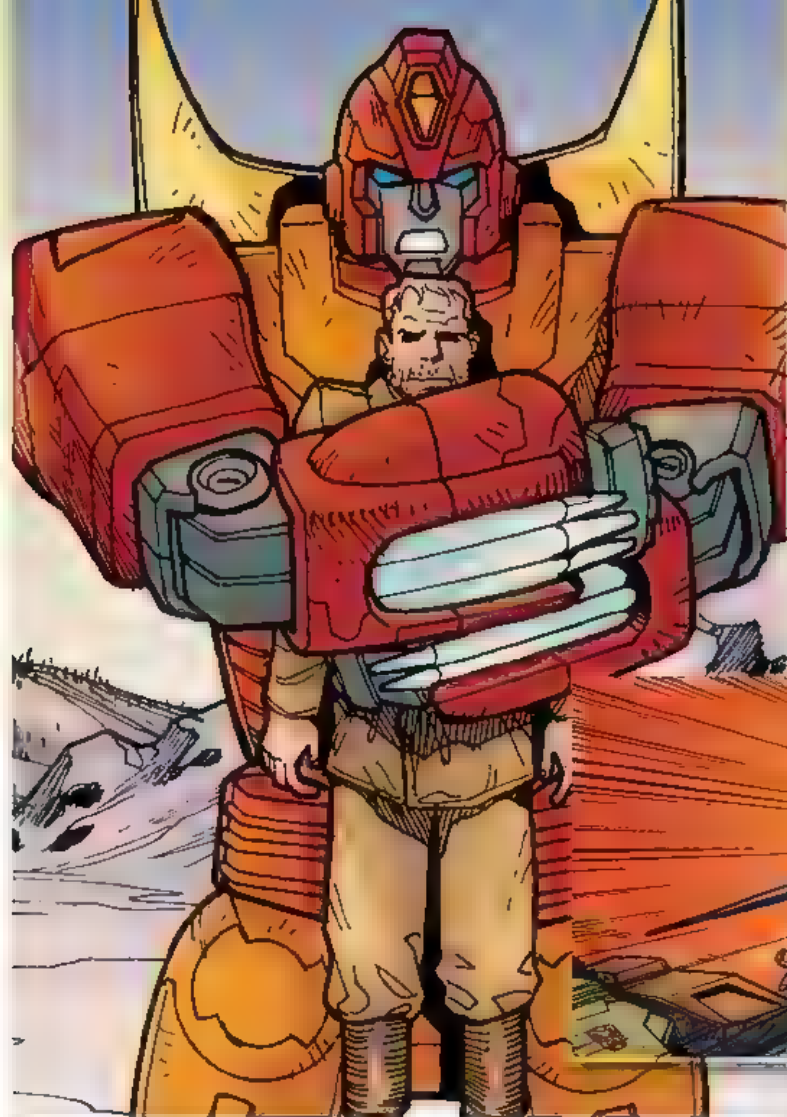




THE TRANSFORMERS

ESCALATION





THE TRANSFORMERS ESCALATION

WRITTEN BY **SIMON FURMAN**
 ART BY **E.J. SU**
 COLORS BY **ZAC ATKINSON**
 LETTERS BY **ROBBIE ROBBINS**
 EDITS BY **CHRIS RYALL & DAN TAYLOR**

COVER BY **E.J. SU**
 VARIANT COVER BY **KLAUS SCHERWINSKI**

ISSUE NUMBER SIX

ESCALATION

The no-holds-barred battle between OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON in Brasnya has ended with the apparent death of the AUTOBOT Commander-in-Chief. Meanwhile, OPTIMUS PRIME's troops fight on, the precious facsimile cargo (in the shape of dissident GEORGI KOSKA) now in the hands of HOT ROD and PROWL. And in Fort Wayne, Indiana, IRONHIDE and RATCHET attempt to extricate the trapped and unconscious VERITY CARLO and JIMMY PINK from a Machination sub-basement before the countdown to detonation reaches zero...

PHASE TWO CONCLUDES...



Licensed by:



Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Elizabeth Griffin, Sheri Lucci and Richard Zambarano for their invaluable assistance.

To discuss this issue of *Transformers*, or join the IDW Insiders, or to check out exclusive Web offers, check out our site:

WWW.IDWPUBLISHING.COM

THE TRANSFORMERS: ESCALATION #6 APRIL 2007 FIRST PRINTING. IDW Publishing a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 4411 Morena Blvd., Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea.

IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

IDW Publishing is:
 Ted Adams, Co-President
 Robbie Robbins, Co-President
 Chris Ryall, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
 Kris Oprnsko, Vice President
 Aaron Payne, Vice President of Sales
 Neil Uyetake, Art Director
 Dan Taylor, Editor
 Justin Eisinger, Editorial Assistant
 Chris Mowry, Graphic Artist
 Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Controller
 Alonzo Simon, Shipping Manager
 Alex Garner, Creative Director
 Yumiko Miyano, Business Development
 Rick Privman, Business Development

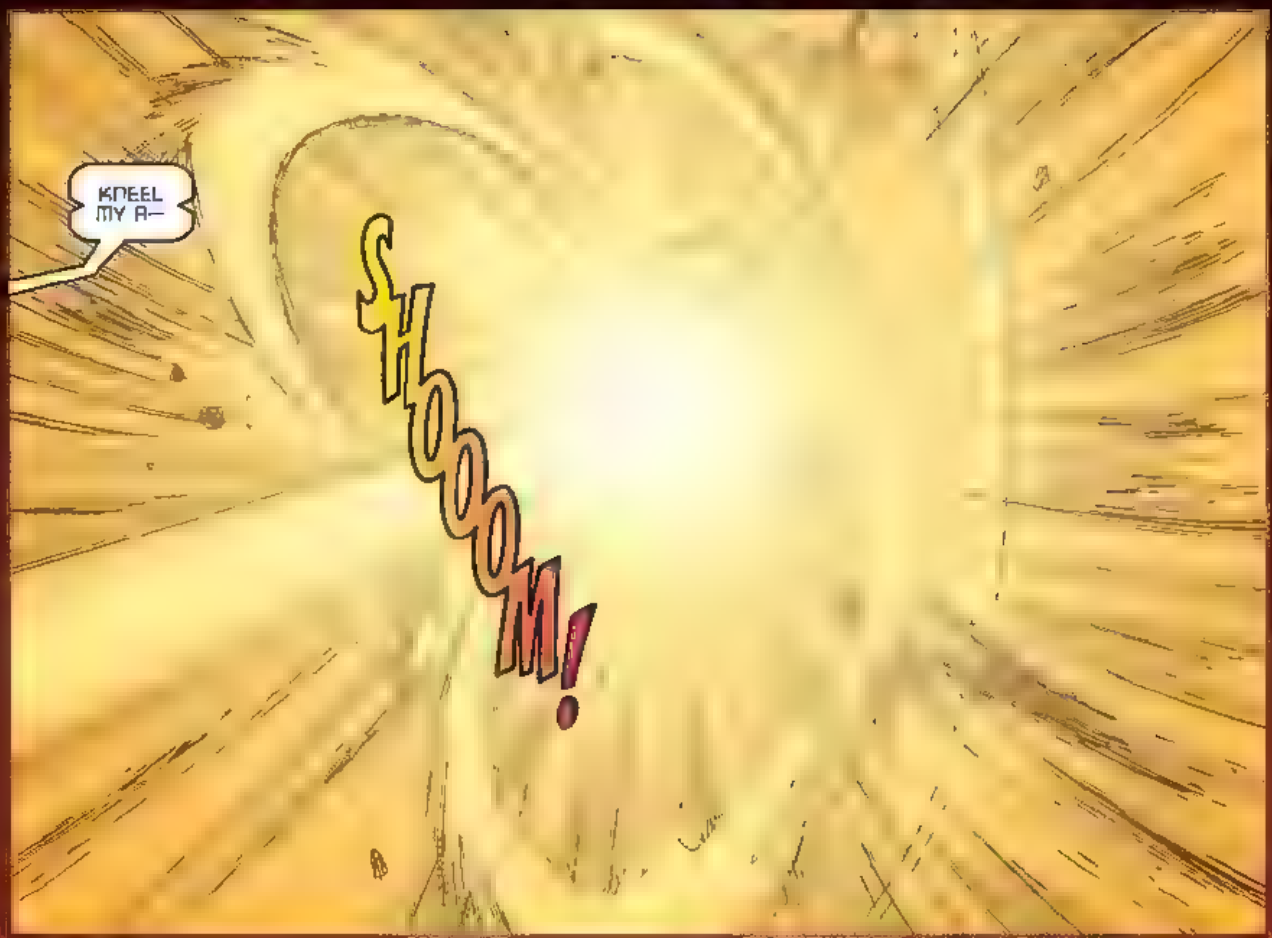
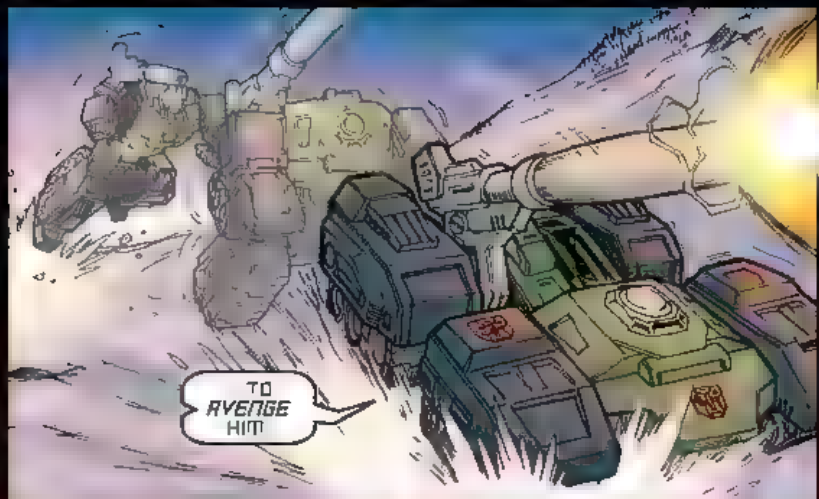
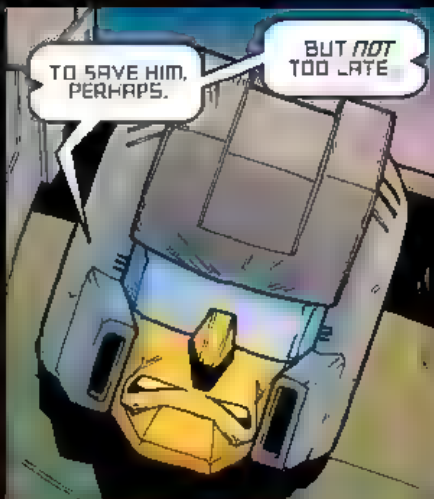
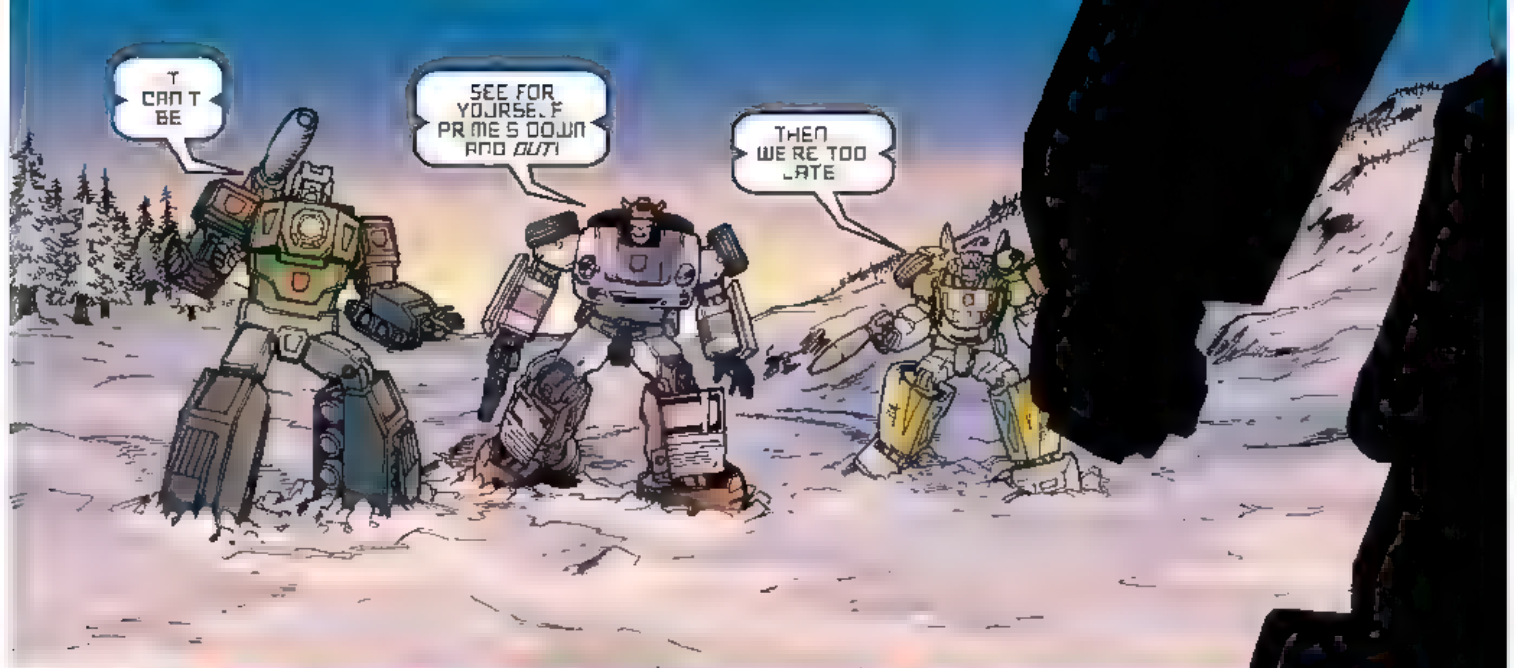
FORMER RUSSIAN
STATE OF BRASNYA

HEAR ME,
AUTOBOTS—
OPTIMUS PRIME
IS DEAD!

THE FINAL
VICTORY IN THIS
LONG AND BITTER
STRUGGLE
BELONGS TO
MEGATRON!

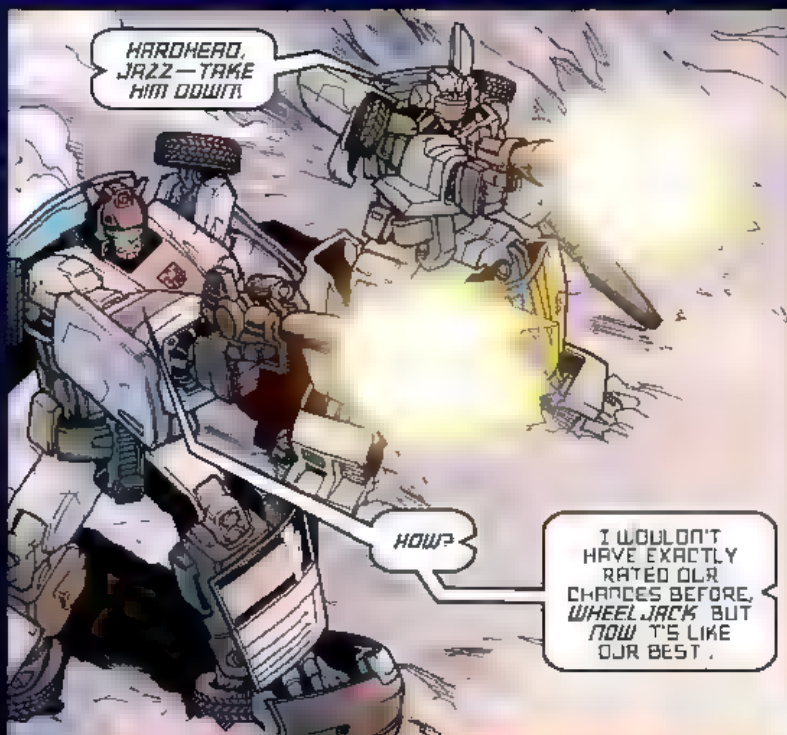
KNEEL
BEFORE ME
OR SHARE
HIS FATE







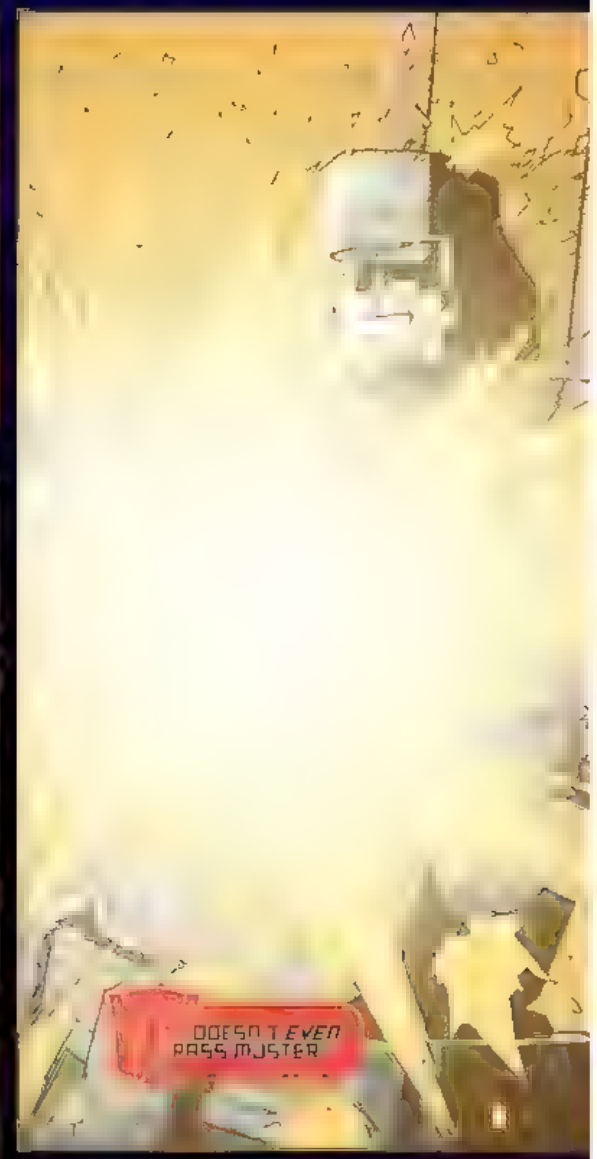
YOU KNOW
I ALMOST FELT THAT



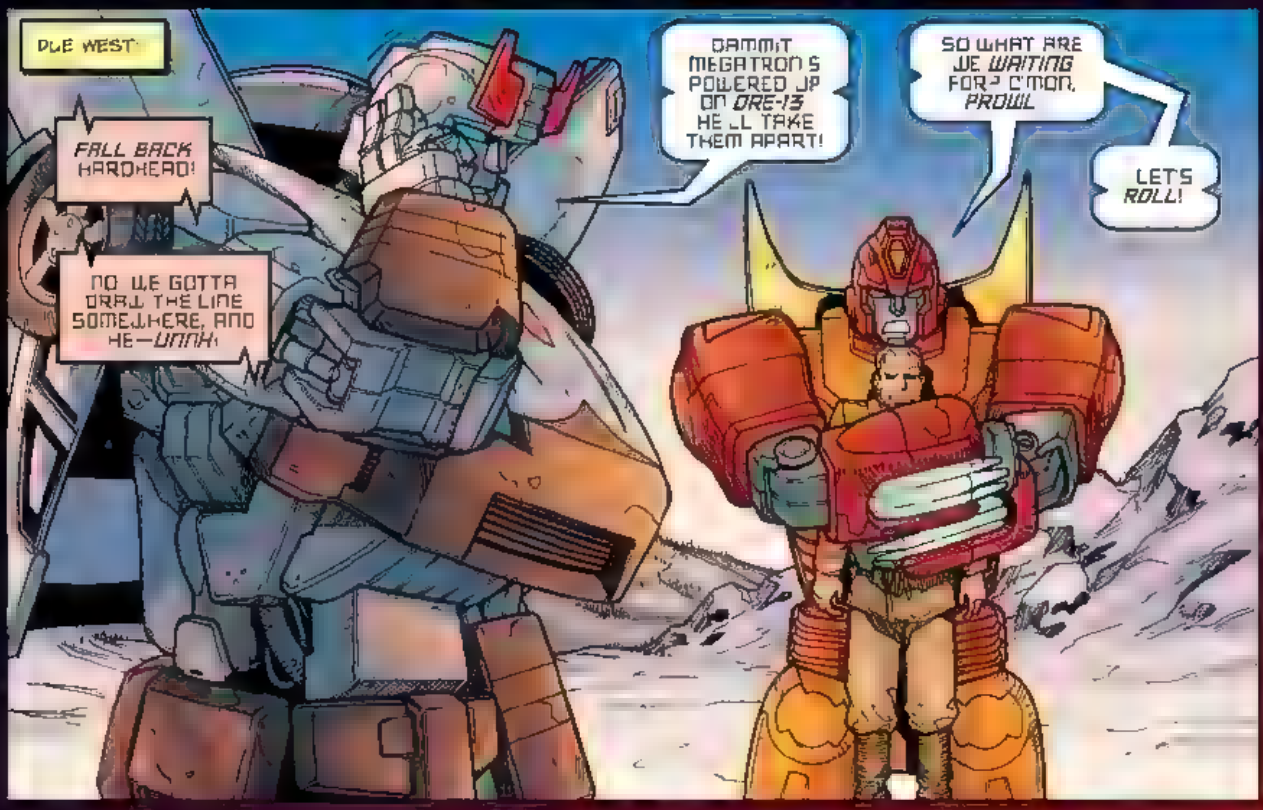
HARDHEAD,
JAZZ—TAKE
HIM DOWN!

HOW?

I WOULDN'T
HAVE EXACTLY
RATED OUR
CHANCES BEFORE,
WHEELJACK, BUT
NOW IT'S LIKE
OUR BEST.



DOESN'T EVEN
PASS MUSTER



DUE WEST

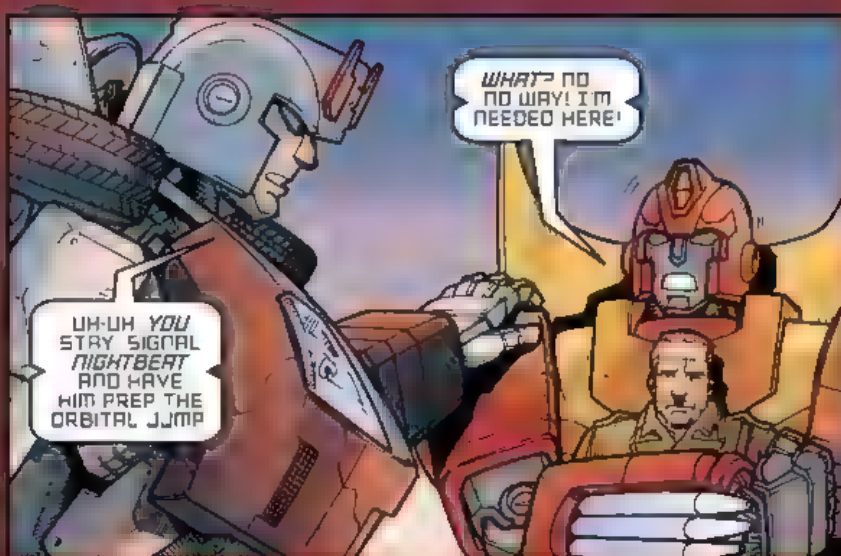
FALL BACK
HARDHEAD!

NO, WE GOTTA
DRAG THE LINE
SOMEWHERE, AND
HE—UNNN!

DAMMIT
MEGATRON'S
POWERED UP
ON DRE-13.
HE'LL TAKE
THEM APART!

SO WHAT ARE
WE WAITING
FOR? COMON,
PROWL!

LET'S
ROLL!



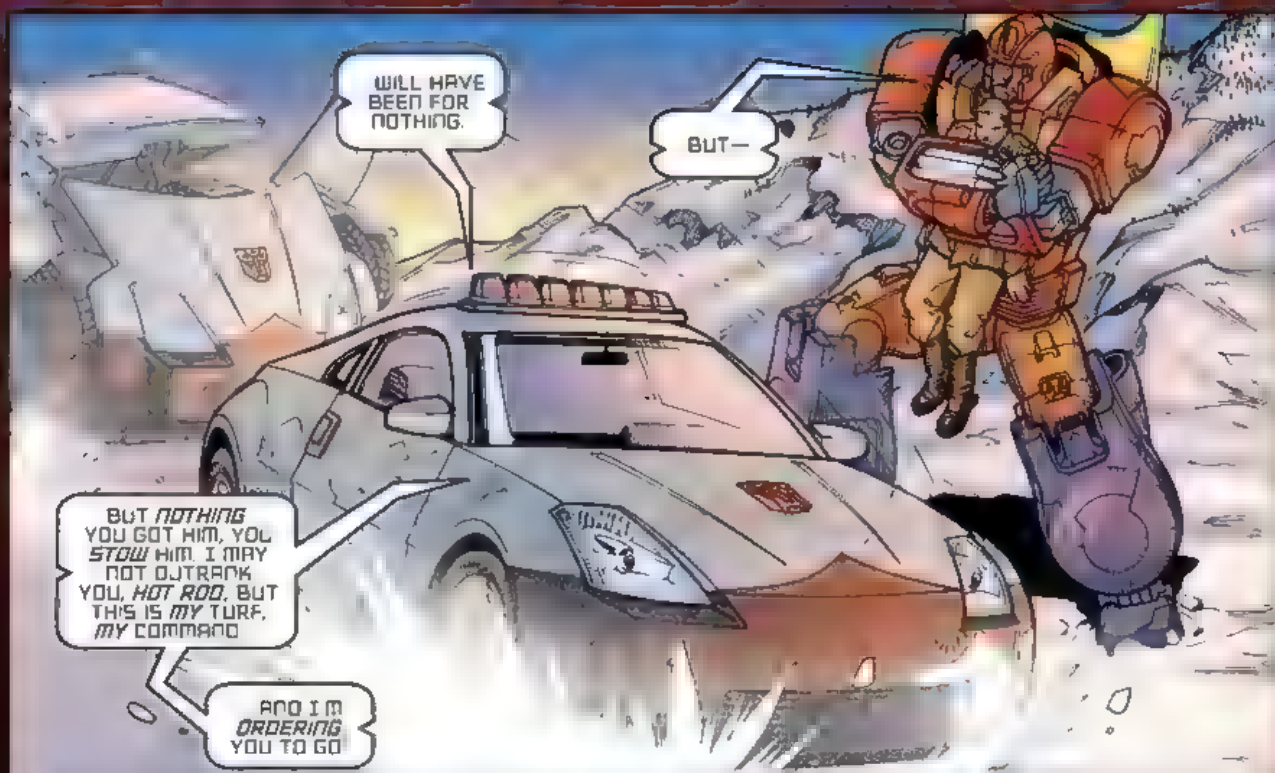
UH-UH YOU
STAY SIGNAL
NIGHTBEAT
AND HAVE
HIM PREP THE
ORBITAL JUMP

WHAT? NO
NO WAY! I'M
NEEDED HERE!



WHAT'S
NEEDED

IS THAT FACSIMILE'S
GENETIC TEMPLATE
OTHERWISE, ALL
WE'VE FOUGHT FOR
HERE, EVERYTHING
WE'VE MAYBE LOST



WILL HAVE
BEEN FOR
NOTHING.

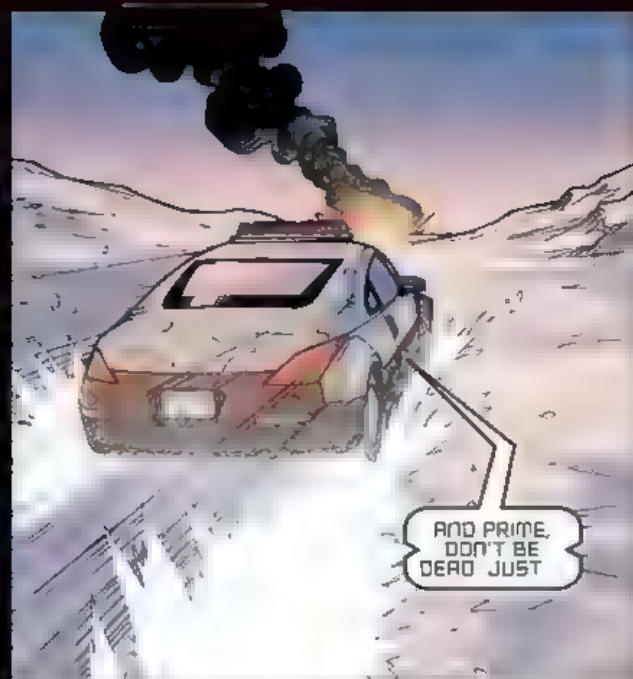
BUT—

BUT NOTHING
YOU GOT HIM, YOU
STOW HIM, I MAY
NOT OUTRANK
YOU, HOT ROD, BUT
THIS IS MY TURF,
MY COMMAND

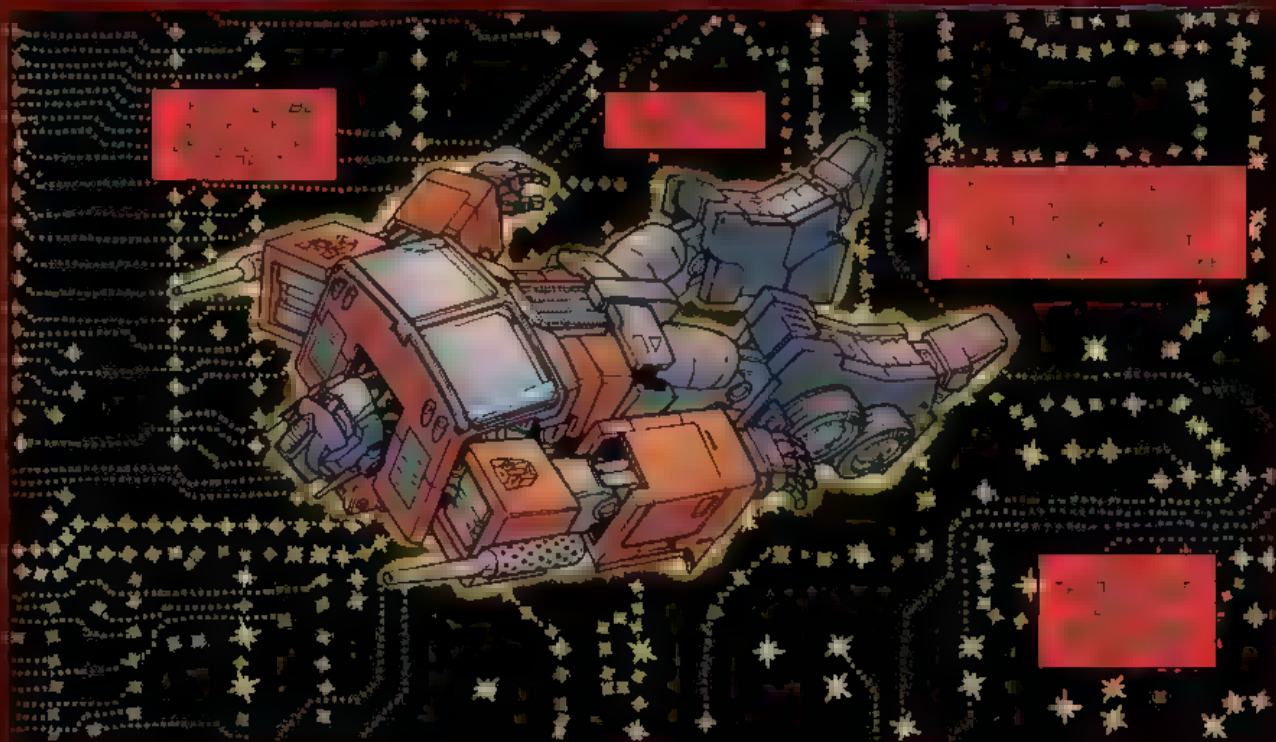
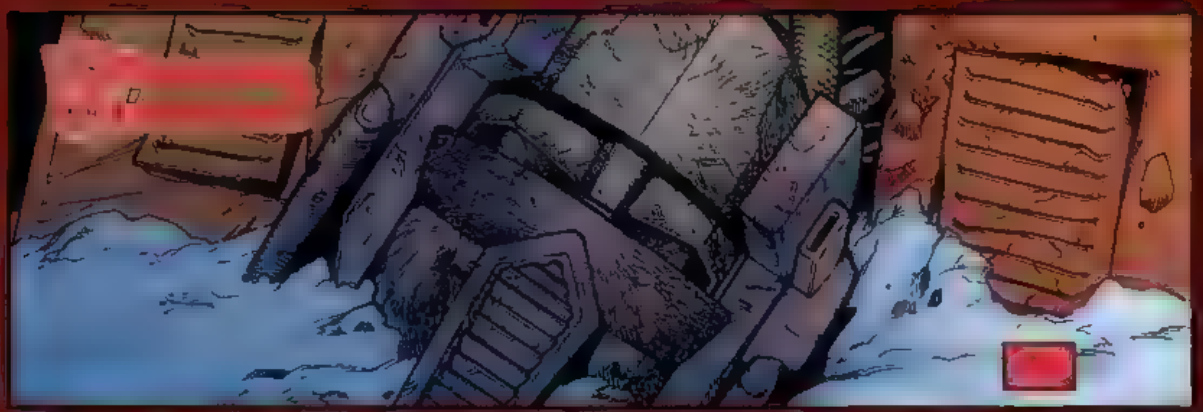
AND I'M
ORDERING
YOU TO GO



JAZZ,
WHEELJACK—I'M
INBOUND



AND PRIME,
DON'T BE
DEAD JUST



THESE ARE THE ONLY
THINGS I'VE FOUND TO THE
COMPASSIONATE

THESE ARE

THESE ARE
THESE ARE

I 15 40 20 30
THESE ARE
THESE ARE
THESE ARE

THESE ARE
THESE ARE
THESE ARE

THESE ARE

PRIME

THESE ARE

PRIME

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.

RATCHET, ARE
YOU SET?

YES
FINALLY, I'VE
GOT A SOLID
FIX ON YOUR
POSITION

GOOD
SO

GET CUTTING

UNDERWAY

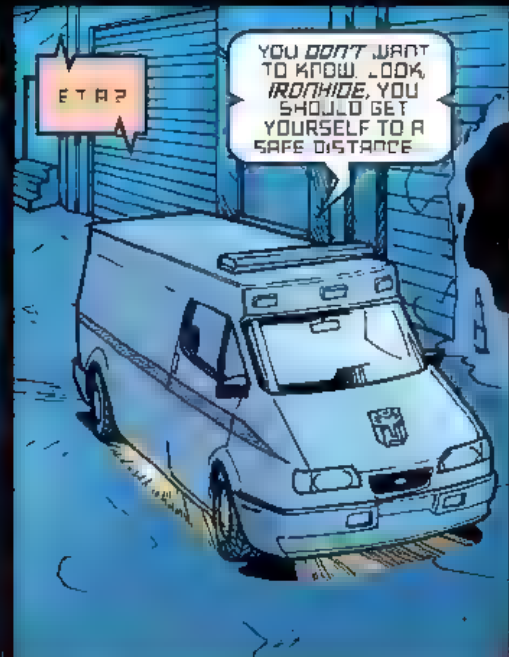
AND
RATCHET



HURRY!

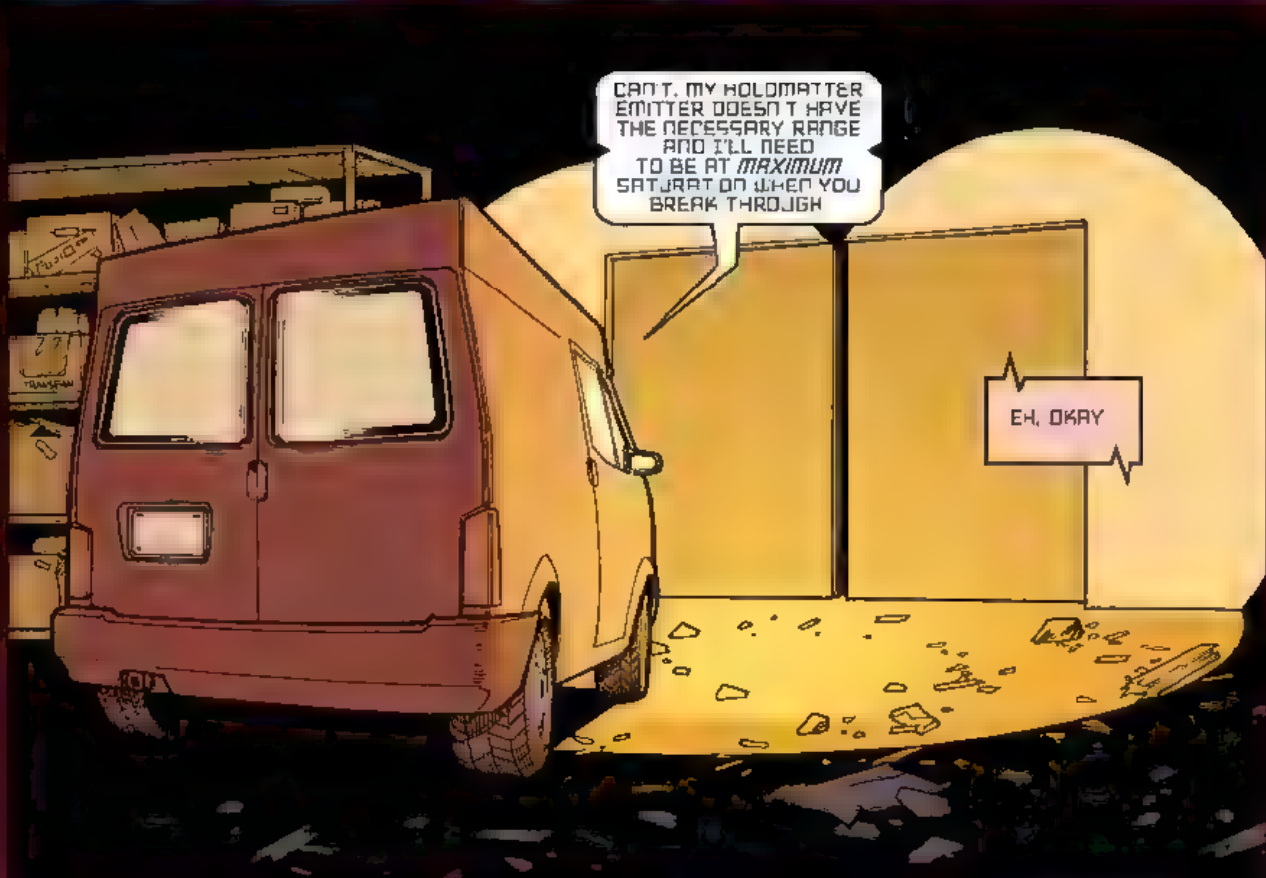
YEAH, RIGHT
AND TO MAKE
MATTERS
WORSE

01:59



ETA?

YOU DON'T WANT
TO KNOW. LOOK,
IRONHIDE, YOU
SHOULD GET
YOURSELF TO A
SAFE DISTANCE



BUT WE'RE
CUTTING IT
VERY FINE!

01:14

BRASNYA:

ALL OF YOU .

BACK
OFF—NOW!

THWUMMM!

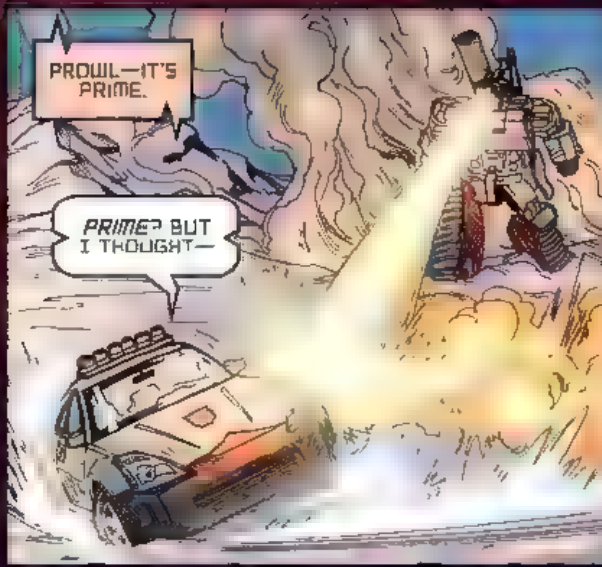
SEEMS
MEGATRON'S GOT
NO REAL LONG-RANGE
WEAPONRY AT HIS
DISPOSAL AND NO
WAY TO ACCESS HIS
ALT-MODE WITHOUT
SOMEONE TO HOLD
AND AIM HIM SO

WE KEEP
FALLING BACK
WHEN WE'VE
GOT SOME
DISTANCE. WE
ATTACK AGAIN.
NOW MOVE!

YOU TOO,
HARDHEAD

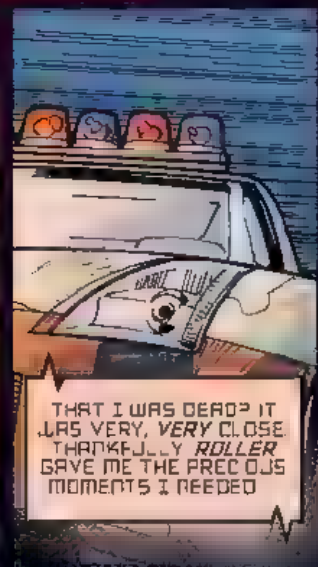
YEH, YEH

FTUM!
FTUM!



PROWL—IT'S PRIME.

PRIME? BUT I THOUGHT—

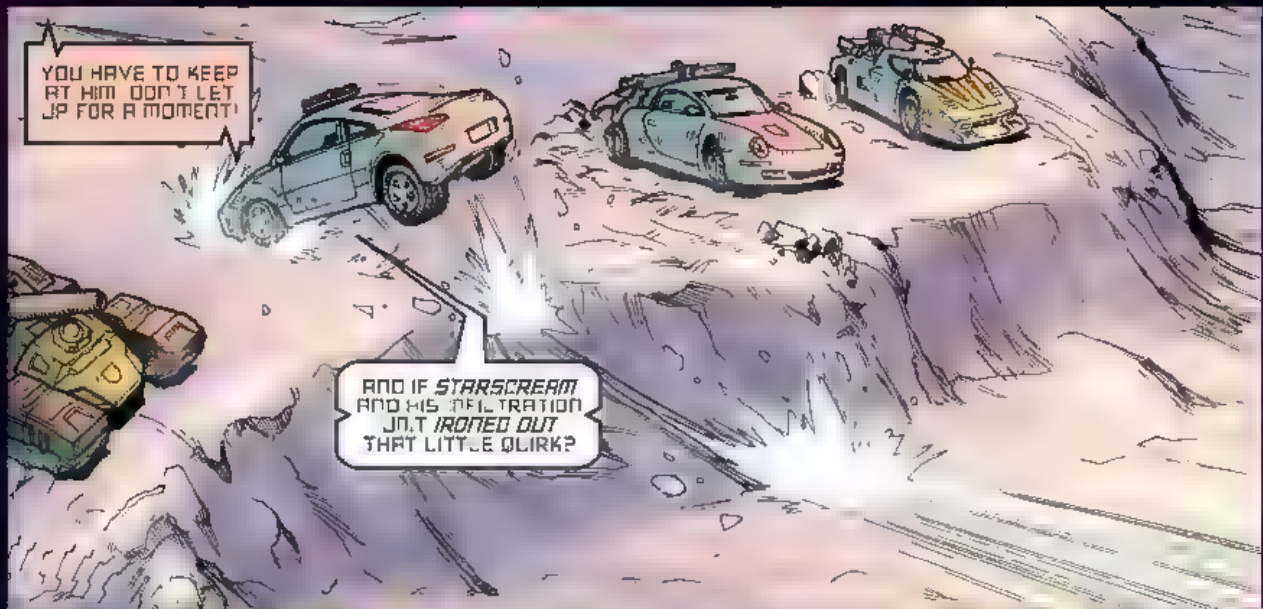


THAT I WAS DEAD? IT WAS VERY, VERY CLOSE. THANKFULLY, ROLLER GAVE ME THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS I NEEDED.



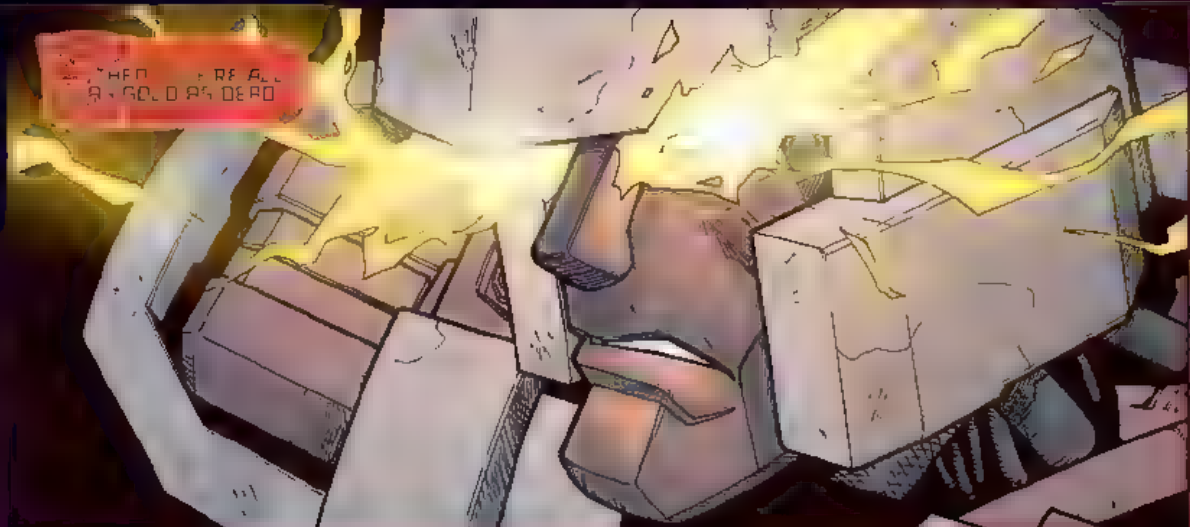
TO DUMP MY HIGHER FUNCTIONS INTO THE TRAILER 5 AUXILIARY SYSTEMS, THEREBY CONVINCING MEGATRON I'D EXPIRED.

NOW, LISTEN. IF ORE-13 IS THE SAME AS THE ULTRA-ENERGON I ENCOUNTERED ON CYBERTRON, THEN IT HAS A BUILT-IN WEAKNESS ONE THAT MEGATRON KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT!



YOU HAVE TO KEEP AT HIM. DON'T LET UP FOR A MOMENT!

AND IF STARScream AND HIS INFILTRATION JOINT IRONED OUT THAT LITTLE QUIRK?



HE'S DEAD. A GOLDEN DEAD.

ARK-32

YOU'VE LEAVE
A HOT
COMBAT ZONE?

THAT'LL BE
ONE FOR THE
DATATRACKS

LOOK, NIGHTBEAT,
DON'T BEND MY
FENDER. JUST BOUNCE
ME TO ARK-19 AND
BE READY TO BOUNCE
ME RIGHT *BACK* HERE
AS SOON AS I DROP
THE PACKAGE OFF.

A *DOUBLE*
ORBITAL BOUNCE?
YOL SURE?

I'M SURE I
MAY BE A LITTLE
AH, SCRAMBLED,
BUT I'VE SURVIVED
WORSE.

NOW ENGAGE
THE SEQUENCE,
BEFORE—

VDP

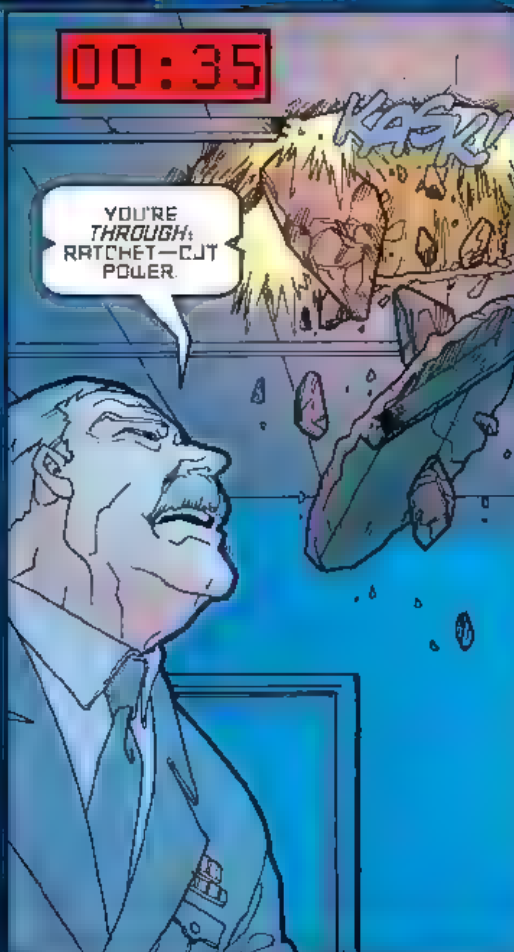
THERE'S
ONE.

KILL IT!

FORT WAYNE.

00:35

YOU'RE
THROUGH,
RATCHET—CUT
POWER.



DONE

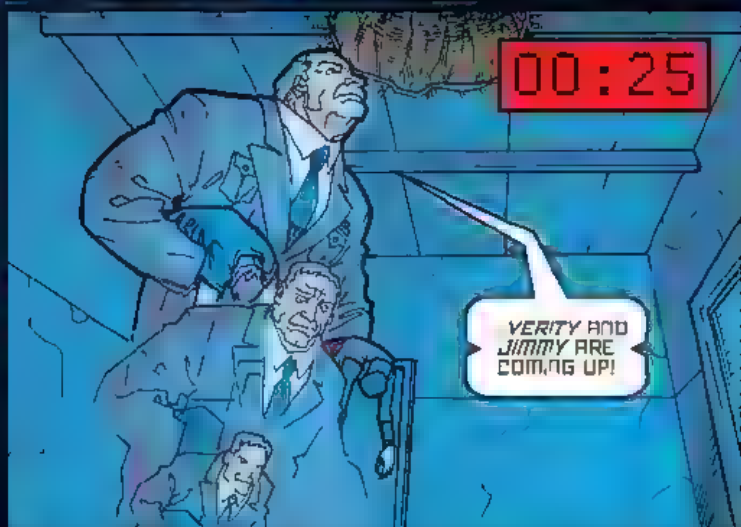
00:31

NOW
GET
READY.



00:25

VERITY AND
JIMMY ARE
COMING UP!



00:18

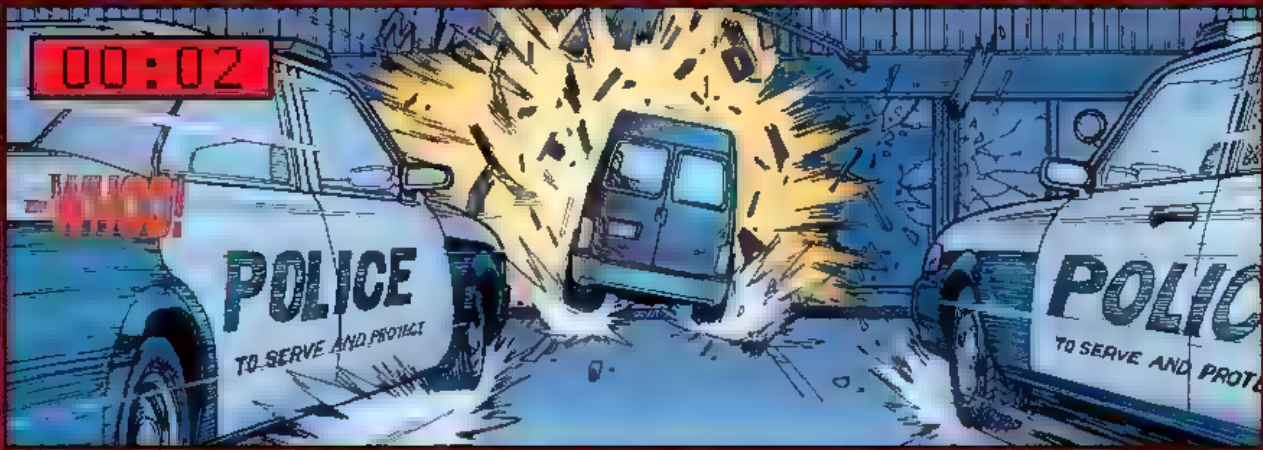
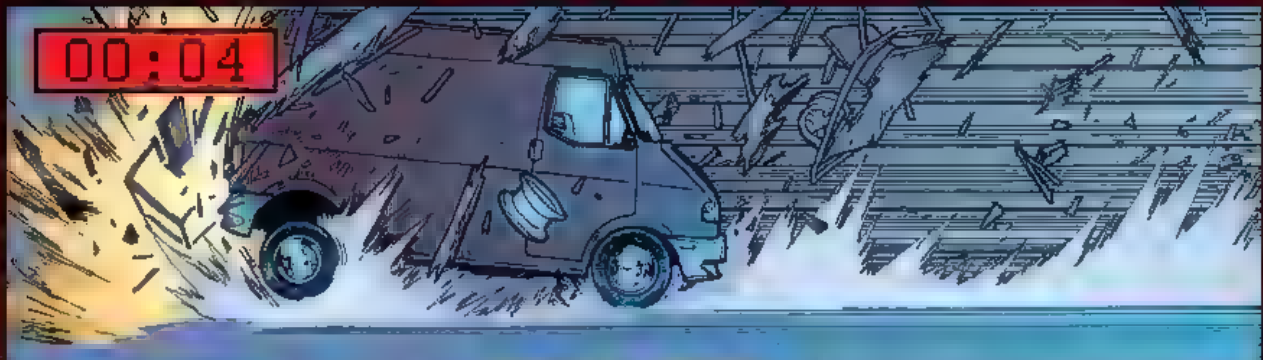
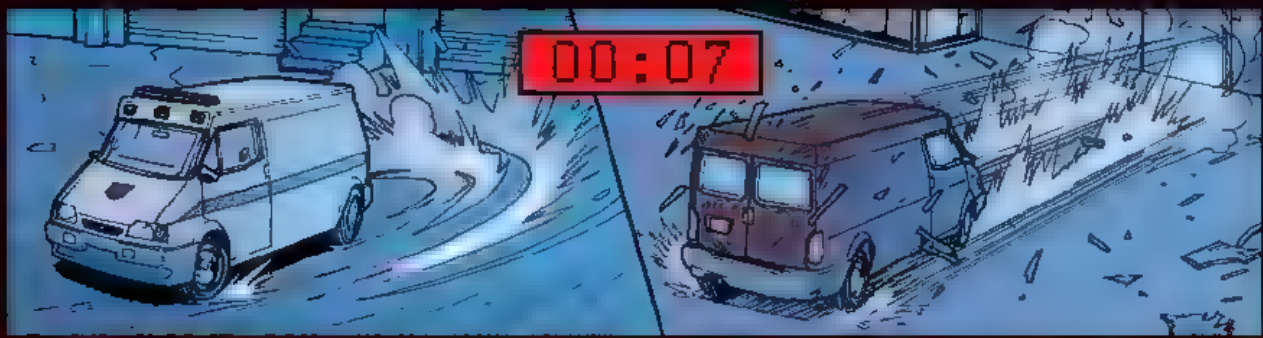
GOT HER AS
SOON AS
THEY'RE BOTH
CLEAR.

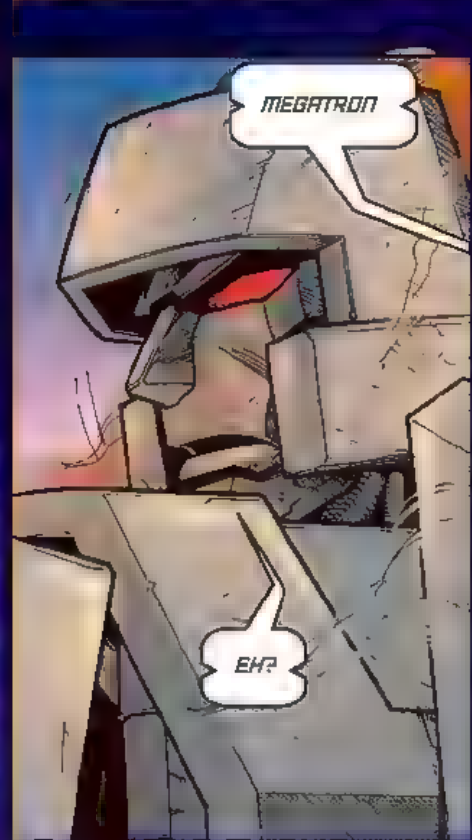
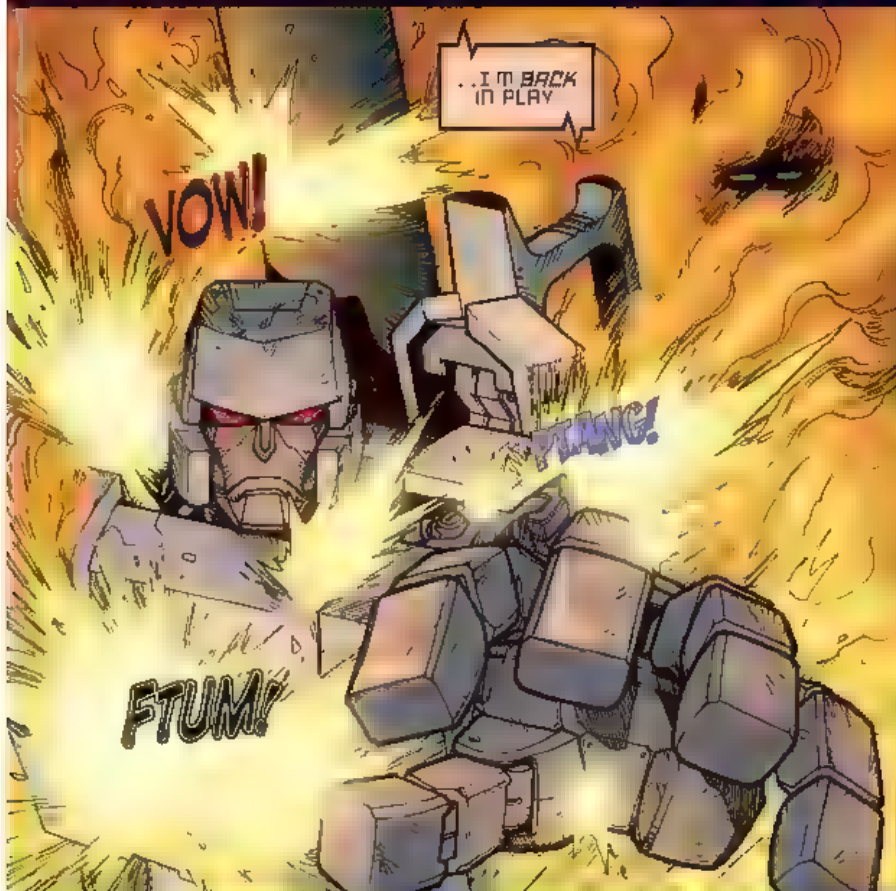
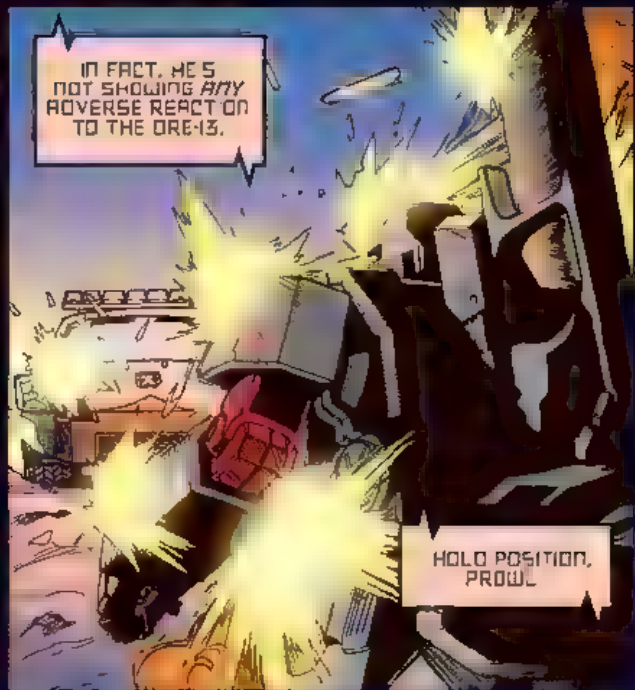
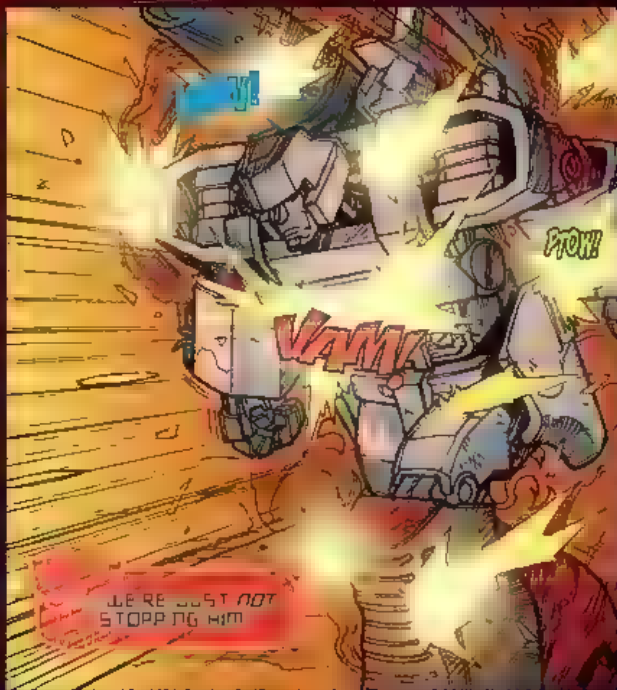


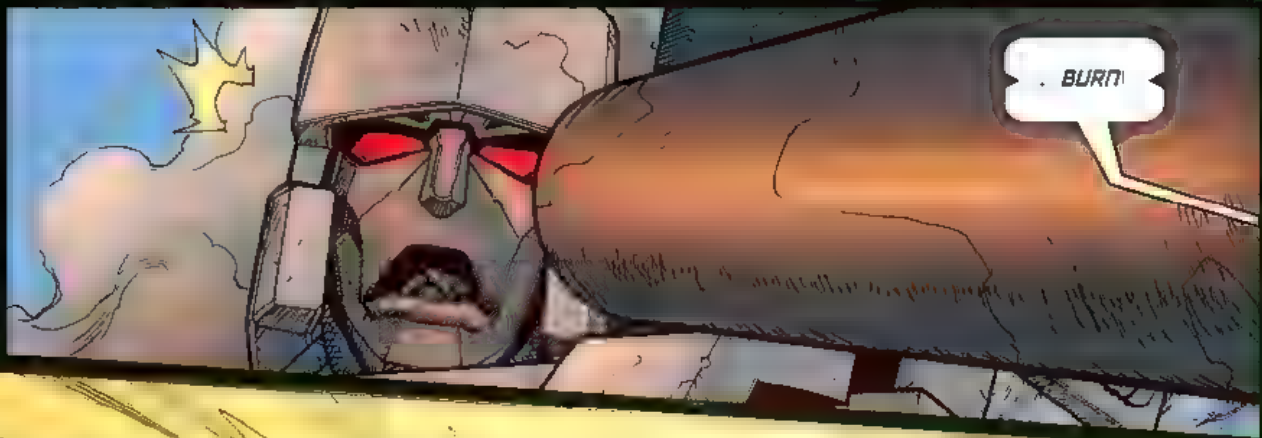
00:11

GET
YOURSELF OUT
OF THERE!







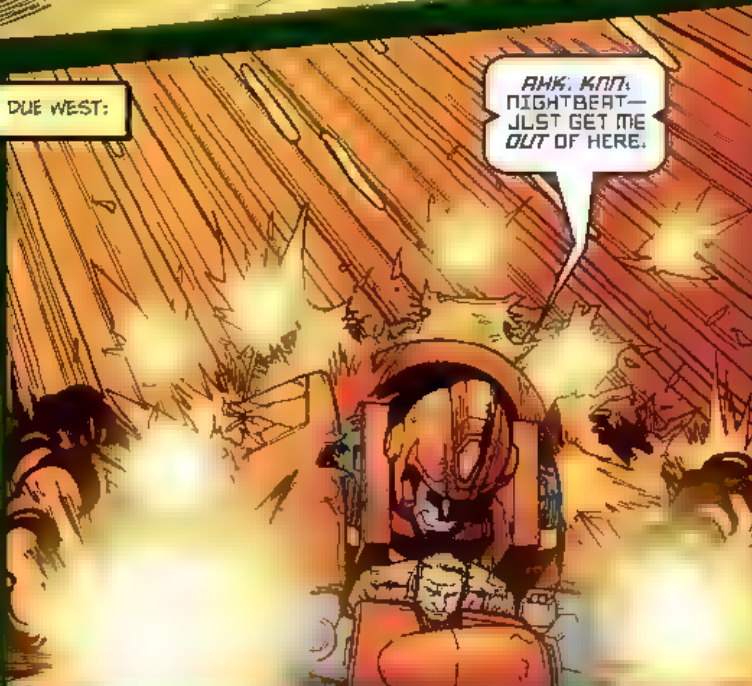


BURN!



CHEE OOM!

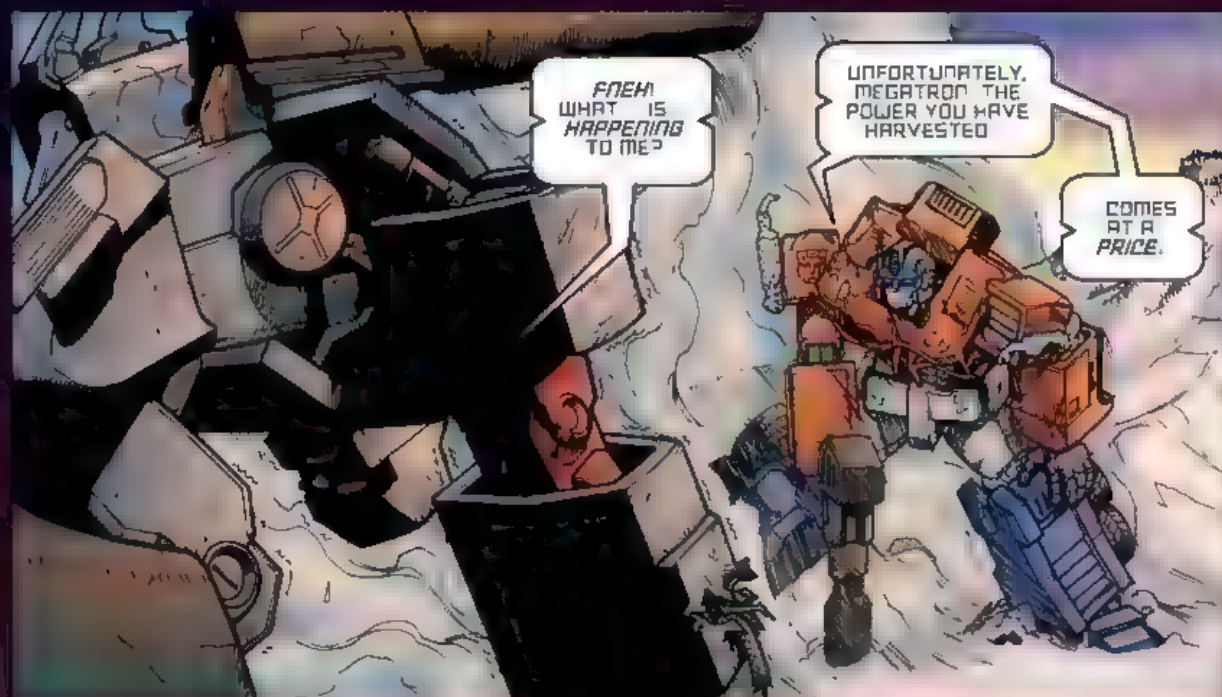
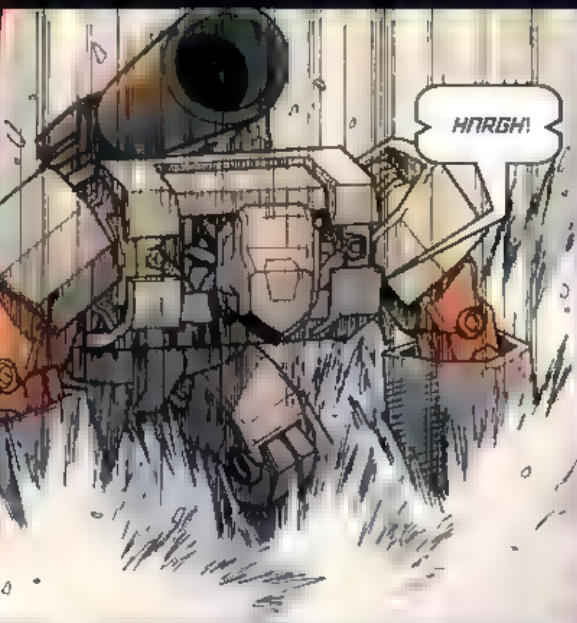
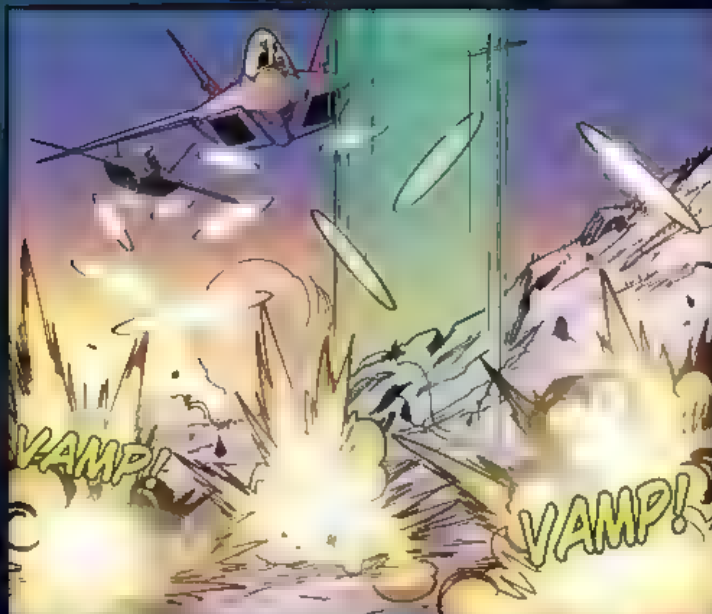
DUE WEST:

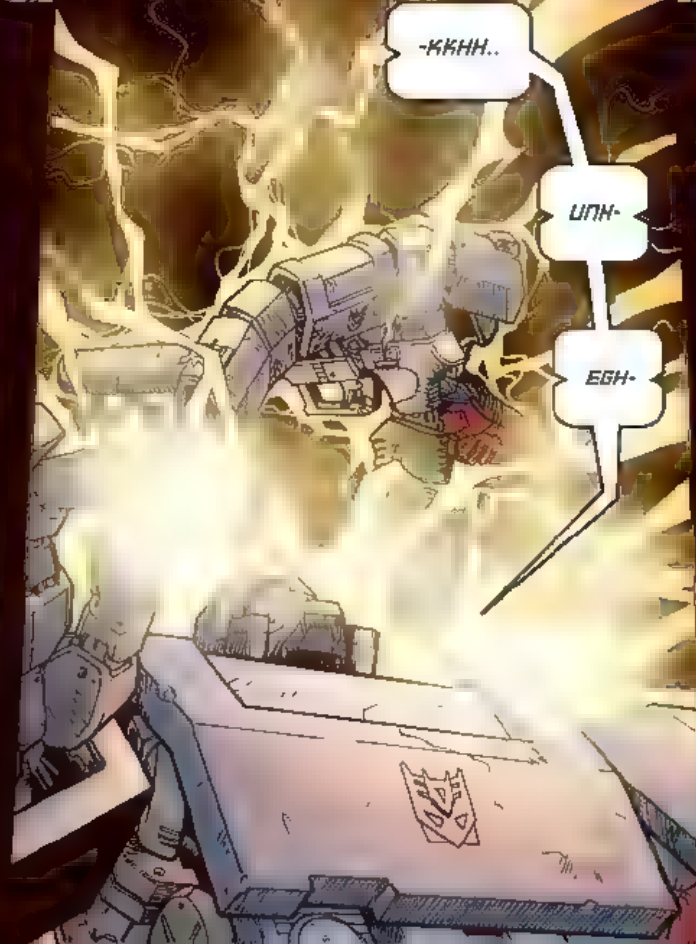
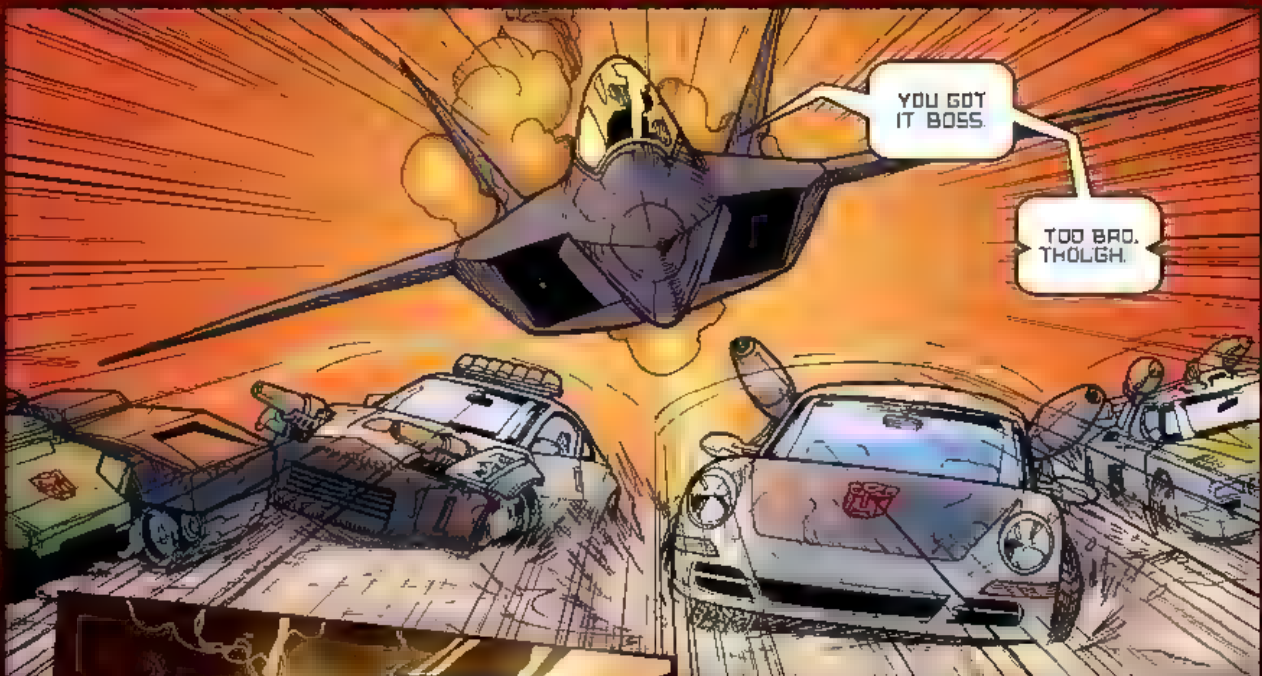
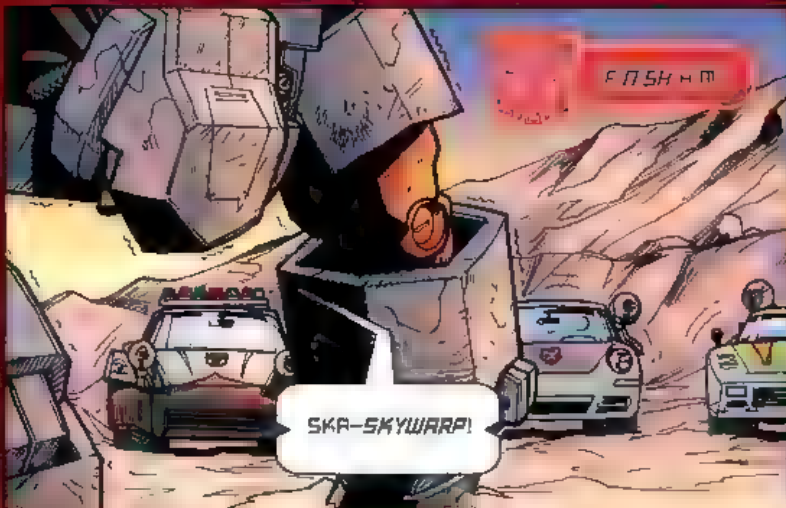


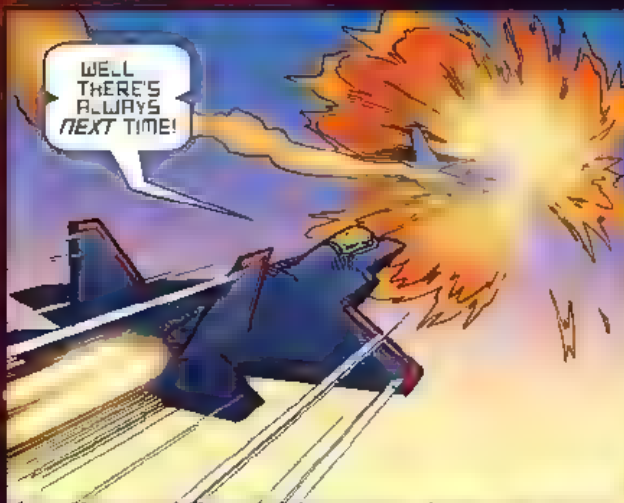
AMK. KKK.
NIGHTBEAT—
JUST GET ME
OUT OF HERE.



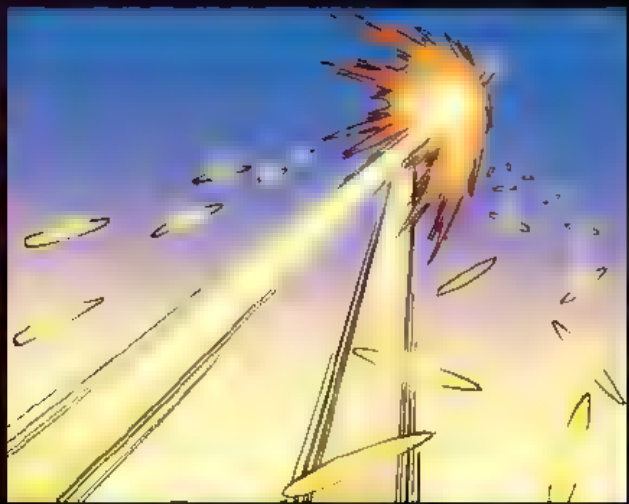
POPOW!







WELL
THERE'S
ALWAYS
NEXT TIME!



PRIME!
ARE
YOU—?

MEGATRON—~~HK~~—NEARLY
CRUSHED MY SPARK
CAUS'G I'M GOING TO
NEED SOME C R * TIME

WHAT ABOUT
THE FACSIMILE?

CRYOGENIC REGENERATION



HOT ROD'S
GOT HIM.

HOT ROD?

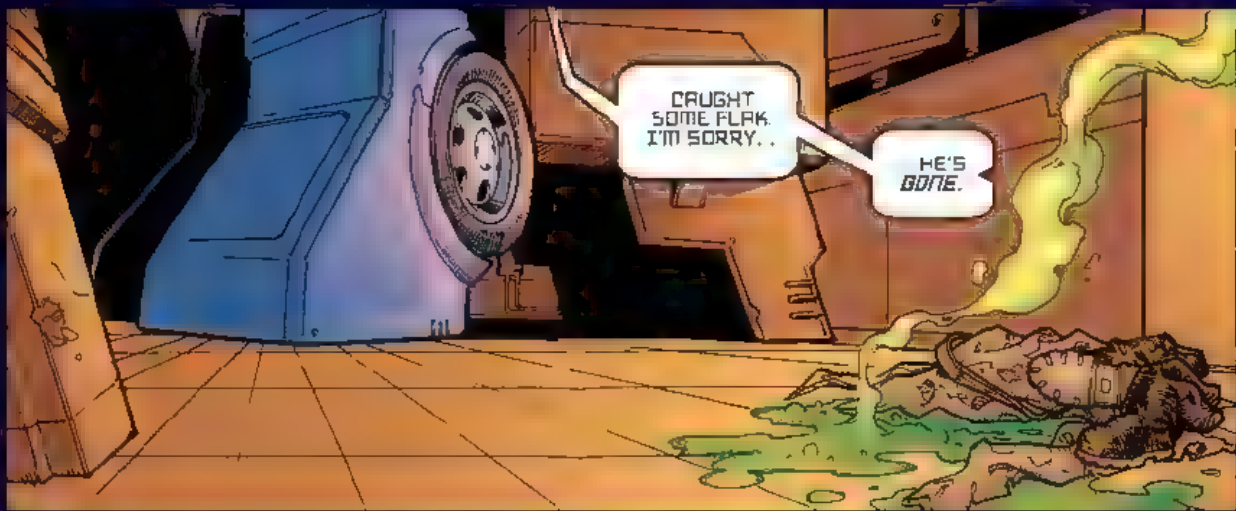
PROB. THIS IS
NIGHTBEAT



NIGHTBEAT?
WHERE'S
HOT ROD?

IN A C R CHAMBER
HE SUSTAINED SOME
PRETTY SEVERE
DAMAGE COURTESY
OF SKYLARK AND
THUNDERCRACKER

AND THE
FACSIMILE?



CAUGHT
SOME FLAK.
I'M SORRY.

HE'S
GONE.

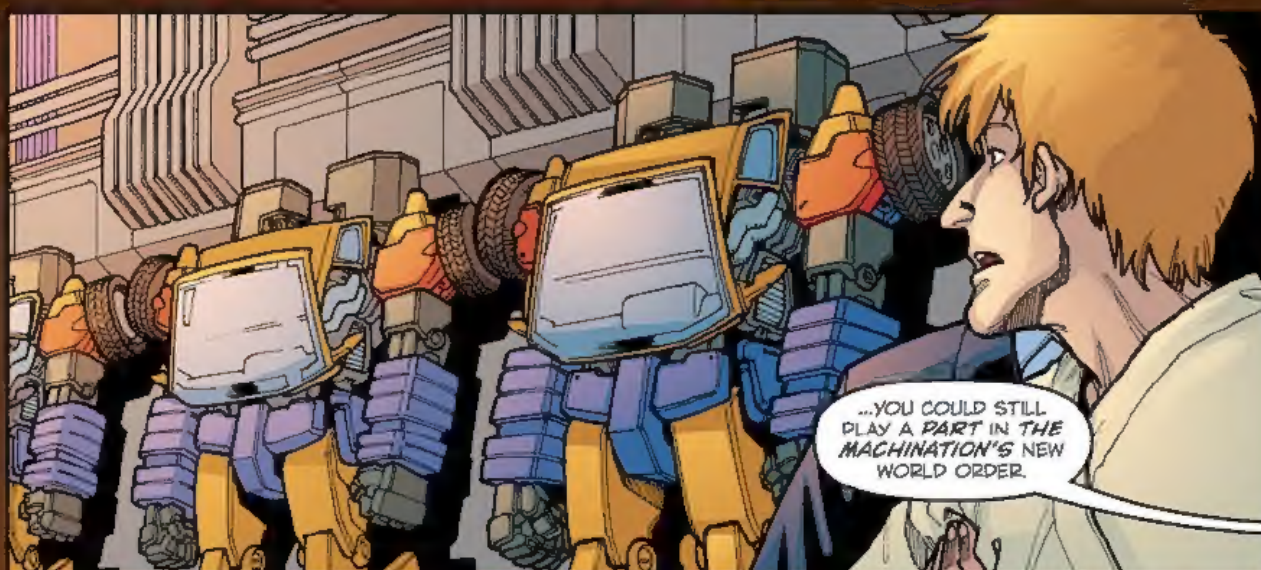
FORT WAYNE:

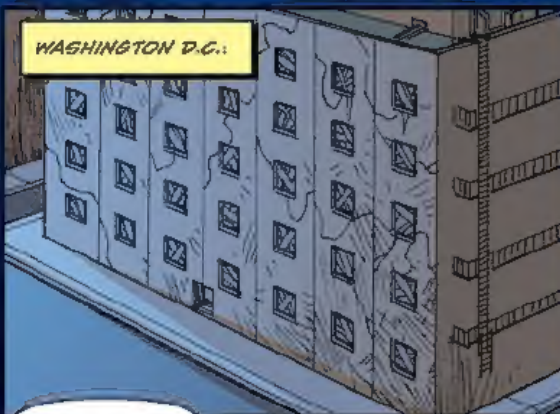


IRONHIDE



TAMPA, FLORIDA:





WASHINGTON D.C.:



IT'S
CONFIRMED.

THAT WAS
MAJOR ARKURIN,
OUR CONTACT IN
ZYARGY. THEY'RE
HERE...



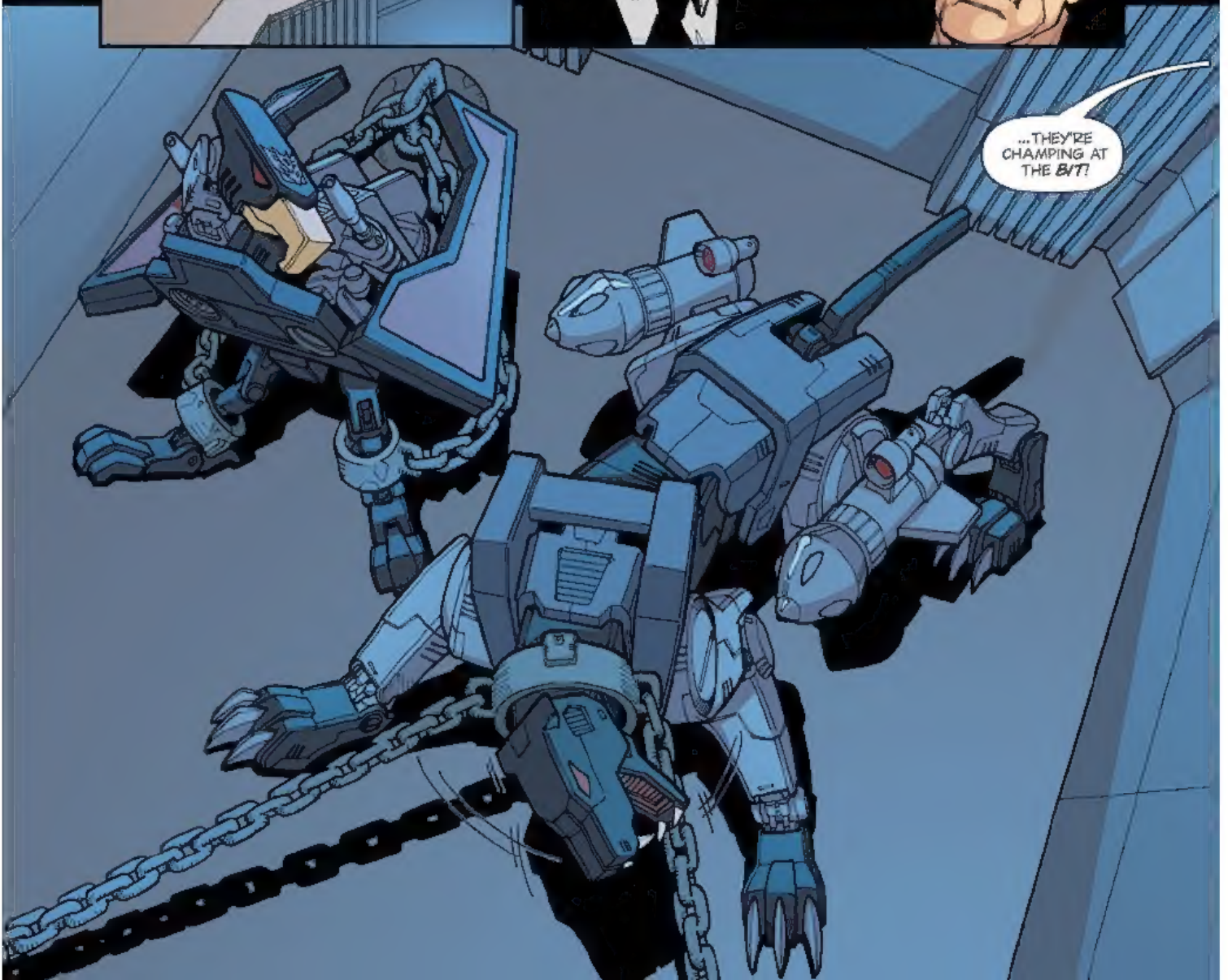
...IN NUMBERS!



WHAT'S OUR
STATUS?

LET'S SEE...
SKYWATCH INDIGO
REPORTS THE EUREKA
EXCAVATION IS ON
SCHEDULE, BUT WE DON'T
EXPECT YIELD FOR
SOME WHILE.

AS
FOR THESE
TWO, AGENT
RED...



...THEY'RE
CHAMPING AT
THE BIT!

DECEPTICON COMMAND BUNKER, OREGON:



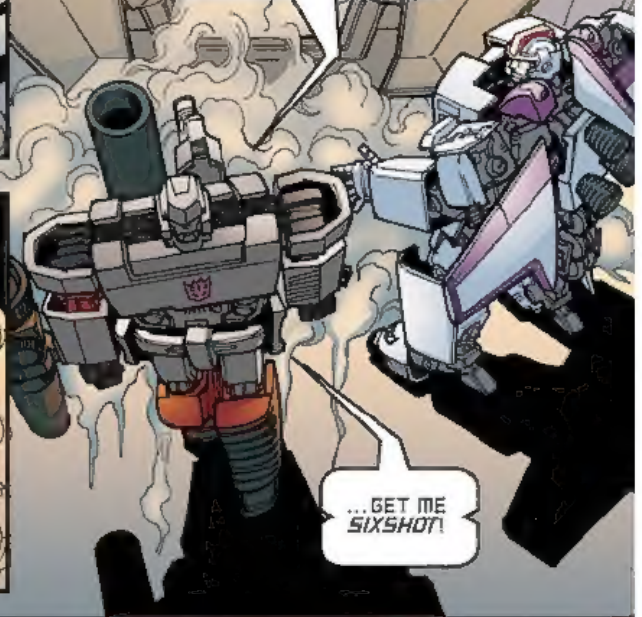
AS PRIME HAS SEEN
FIT TO INTRODUCE
REINFORCEMENTS, SO
SHALL I. ASTROTRAIN...

FOR THIS
IGNOMINY...

...HEADS
MUST ROLL.



...GET ME
SIXSHOT!



WHAT?

YOU CAN'T BE
SERIOUS! WE'VE
NEVER USED HIM
AT THIS STAGE.
IT'S... UNTHINKABLE!

I DID NOT
INVITE DEBATE.
LET THERE BE...



DEVASTATION!



MUMU-OBSCURA*

EARTH
IT IS.

AND WHEN
SIXSHOT HAS VISITED
APOCALYPSE UPON
THAT TROUBLED
WORLD, ALL THAT
REMAINS SHALL
BE HARVESTED...

...BY THE
REAPERS!



*SEE SPOTLIGHT: SIXSHOT



TO BE CONTINUED IN
THE TRANSFORMERS:
DEVASTATION...